MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 AUGUST 1981

Afghanistan

Trilateral Talks Offer--The DRA Government, in an announcement broadcast by Kabul radio, said that while it prefers bilateral talks with Pakistan and Iran, it is prepared to begin trilateral talks with them. The statement said Afghanistan does not object to the participation of the UN secretary general or his representative. It also called for talks among the Soviet Union, the United States and "some other countries" concerning international guarantees of noninterference in Afghan affairs to be held at the same time as the talks among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Such discussions could initially take the form of "multilateral unofficial talks," the statement said, and subsequently progress into an international conference. If the DRA receives reliable international guarantees of noninterference in Afghan affairs, the statement went on, "the reasons which forced Afghanistan to request the USSR to send limited military contingents into Afghanistan would be eliminated" and the method and date of the departure of Soviet troops could be fixed. In conclusion, the DRA Government stated that neither in its own discussions with Pakistan and Iran, nor in the international discussion of guarantees, can questions concerning the existing type of government in Afghanistan or other internal matters be discussed.

Panjsher Valley Offensive--A BBC World Service correspondent's report from Delhi said that the biggest Soviet-Afghan assault to date on the rebel-held Panjsher Valley is now underway.

Pakistan

Karachi radio reported the arrival in Islambad of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Firyubin, who is on a 4-day visit. In a statement at the airport, Firyubin said he had come to Pakistan to discuss international issues and bilateral relations. Earlier, the radio had announced his arrival in Karachi.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to policemen, NCO's and foreign vistors broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni made another appeal to "deceived" young persons to stop supporting opposition groups and "return to Islam." He said the "pro-America" leaders of the opposition make a lot of noise and propaganda but do not have a foothold in Iran. "If they commanded the support of one-tenth of the country, they would have stayed here," he added. Those who are "corrupt" and have fled abroad will not repent, he said, but the path of repentance is nevertheless still open to them. Reiterating his appeal for families to report those among them who have engaged in sabotage, Khomeyni claimed that Iran's internal problems are "trivial."

Bani-Sadr Interview--Former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said in a BBC television interview that he wants to return to Iran before Ayatollah Khomeyni dies and force him "to say that liberty must be established." Bani-Sadr described the present government in Iran as nonexistent and said Khomeyni has only five or six close aides left.

Internal Security--AFP, citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, reported that over the past 3 days, 73 opponents of the Iranian Government have been executed in various parts of Iran, including 38 counterrevolutionaries in Tehran, 29 found guilty of terrorist actions in Estahbanat and 6 Mojahedin in Ramsar and Babol. According to Tehran radio, 39 leftists have been arrested in Urumiyeh, Khoy, Qa'emshahr, Fuman and Rasht, including members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and Peykar. Shiraz radio reported the arrest of three leftists in Borazjan.

Tehran radio noted the shooting in Rasht of a Mojahedin-e Khalq official who tried to flee from revolution guards after being identified. The radio also reported an unsuccessful attack on the home of Iranian Prosecutor General Rabbani-Amlashi by 10-15 assailants, 3 of whom were arrested. Another report by the radio, citing a revolution guards' statement, said that over the past 10 days 16 members of the guards corps and allied groups have been killed.

Seizure of Ambassador, Embassies--Tehran radio reported that the Iranian ambassador to Stockholm was taken hostage in his residence by Peykar and Feda'iyan-e Khalq members. Stockholm radio's English service subsequently reported that Swedish police stormed the building and removed the 30 unarmed occupiers who had demanded a press conference be held to condemn the executions in Iran before the release of the ambassador, his wife and another embassy official.

Similar incidents occurred in the Iranian embassies in Brussels and The Hague on 25 August. Brussels radio reported that about 20 supporters of Bani-Sadr's National Resistance Council occupied the Brussels embassy for 75 minutes until they were ejected by security forces. According to AFP, 17 Peykar members were arrested by police after they briefly occupied the entrance hall of The Hague embassy.

Iraq-Iran Conflict

An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported that one Iranian fighter plane had been shot down on the southern battlefronts.

Al-Qadhdhafi Tour

Damascus radio reported that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Damascus on an official visit for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior Syrian officials. Earlier, Abu Dhabi radio reported Al-Qadhdhafi's departure from the UAE and revealed that the UAE has agreed to look after Libyan interests in the United States. Tripoli radio reported that before flying to Damascus, Al-Qadhdhafi stopped over briefly in Kuwait where he discussed with top officials the question of holding an emergency Arab summit meeting.

Syria

Citing the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, Cairo radio reported that large numbers of Soviet land forces have recently arrived in Syria to participate in joint maneuvers with Syrian forces.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT REMARKS ON U.S.; SAYS CEASE-FIRE WILL FAIL

NC250734 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Aug 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that during the recent Palestinian-Israeli war the United States tried to test the strength of the PLO. This was contained in a statement to the ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT magazine published in London.

Abu 'Ammar said that the Palestinians triumphed in this war against Israel in the sense that the Israeli strategy, which is aimed at destroying the Palestinian military infrastructure and undermining Lebanese-Palestinian relations, has failed twice in 3 years. This victory will be translated into the political field.

Abu 'Ammar said that Washington is trying to apply some makeup to the Camp David image, but this attempt will fail because of the Palestinian and Arab rejection of the Camp David accords.

Further Comments

NC211429 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] Beirut, 20 Aug (AFP)--Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat today predicted an early end to the fragile cease-fire between Israeli and Lebanon-based Palestini forces.

In a report of talks between Mr 'Arafat and a visiting observer group from non-aligned nations, the Palestinian news agency WAFA quoted the PLO leader as describing the situation in southern Lebanon as "dangerous." Mr 'Arafat said Israel was expected to mount new attacks against southern Lebanon soon, despite the month-long cease-fire.

If Israel attacked civilian settlements in southern Lebanon, Palestinian forces would respond "without pity," the PLO leader said.

Mr 'Arafat also said the PLO was equipped and ready to wage a prolonged war against Israel and inflict severe losses on the Israeli population. Palestinian forces had now reached a strength that meant Israeli generals "can no longer pretend they can defeat us in hours or even days", the PLO leader added.

VOP REPORTS ON SEVERAL FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS

JN241613 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland have carried out a series of daring operations against enemy installations, vital gathering points and centers. An explosive charge planted by our revolutionaries went off at dawn today in the station on the Ra'anana-Herzliyya crossroads, wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and destroying part of the station.

At dawn today our revolutionaries planted explosive charges inside a military transport station on the French Hill in Jerusalem, although the enemy discovered the charge by using an explosives-detecting robot, the charge went off, destroying part of the station and damaging a police car.

The explosion of several incendiary explosive charges last night in the Zionist military school in Beersheba wounded several cadets and destroyed large parts of the school building, causing a fire which consumed the school's warehouses.

A handgrenade hurled by one of our revolutionaries yesterday at the military vehicle maintenance center in occupied Ramla wounded several of the enemy and inflicted heavy damage on the center.

In Netanya, an incendiary explosive charge planted by our revolutionaries in the industrial area went off at dawn yesterday, causing a huge fire. Damage is estimated at scores of millions of shekels.

At dawn yesterday our revolutionaries planted explosive charges inside the military cooperative in the center of the Qiryat Gat settlement. Although the charge was discovered, the Zionist explosives expert was forced to detonate it in place, leading to heavy material damage inside the cooperative.

VOP REPORTS ARRESTS OF PALESTINIANS IN ISRAEL

NC231540 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Text] The Israeli military occupation forces yesterday unleashed a widespread campaign of arrests in the occupied Gaza Strip. Scores of Palestinians were arrested on charges of affiliation with the Palestinian revolution. Reports from the occupied territory indicate that the occupation forces, including security forces, police, army and intelligence units, participated in the campaign which is aimed primarily at uncovering the heroic Palestinians who carried out the attack in which the military governor of Rafah was killed at the beginning of last month.

The Israeli military authorities yesterday arrested 77 Palestinians in various parts of the occupied West Bank on charges of being in the town of Nazareth without previous permission from the occupation forces. The 77 Palestinians are some of the 2,000 Palestinians who participated in the sixth annual volunteer camp established by the Nazareth municipality. The occupation forces have warned the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip against participating in the work camp and threatened them with arrest.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY 24 AUG

GF241622 Manama Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received at Government House this morning Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, Lebanon's minister of finance and personal envoy of President Sarkis, who delivered a message to his highness the amir from the Lebanese president regarding Lebanon's request for an Arab summit meeting to discuss the Lebanese crisis and Israel's continuous aggression on Lebanon. Present were his excellency the prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman; the crown prince and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa; the minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak; the minister of finance and national economy, Mr Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim; and the Lebanese charge d'affaires in Bahrain, Mr Wafiq (Jabut).

KUWAIT

AL-QADHDHAFI VISITS, MEETS WITH OFFICIALS 24 AUG

LD241300 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] The commander of the revolution arrived in Kuwait at noon today from the UAE. He was welcomed on arrival at Kuwait airport by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, the heir apparent and prime minister; and ministers and senior officials.

Following a short rest at the airport, a meeting was held between the brother commander and the amir of Kuwait in the presence of the Libyan Arab delegation accompanying the brother commander and the Kuwaiti delegation, comprising Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

JANA has learned that the meeting discussed the question of holding an emergency meeting to discuss a number of strategic issues of interest to the Arab nation to counter American insults and challenges. JANA has learned that there was an agreement of views on matters discussed between the two sides.

At 1400 the brother commander left Kuwait airport. He was seen off by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad; the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah; deputy prime minister and foreign minister and acting minister of information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad; and members of the Jamahiriyah's mission in Kuwait.

KUNA REPORTS FOUR OF FIVE OIL TANK FIRES PUT OUT

LD220824 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 22 August (KUNA)--Acting Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Abdallah ar-Rashid has stated that after exhaustive efforts the fire brigades succeeded in putting out the fire in two more of the five oil tanks that have been burning for 48 hours at the Al-Shu'aybah industrial area 50 km south of the city of Kuwait. He added that one tank was still on fire, but "was left to burn by the firemen while they concentrated on protecting adjoining tanks from catching fire."

Fire was put out in two tanks yesterday after the contents had been burned away. The contents belonged to the state-owned Kuwait National Oil Company.

The fire, which broke out at dawn last Thursday, has killed one man. Officials at the Al-Shu'aybah oil refinery, the second largest in Kuwait, have been forced to suspend operations at the 200,000 barrel refinery.

The officials said that the refinery will remain closed until the fire is completely put out, but that this will not affect supplies of fuel and oil byproducts to the local market.

No official figures have been announced about the losses, but the newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM puts it today at over 50 million dollars.

PAPER REPORTS OFFICIAL MEASURES TAKEN ON OIL FIRE

GF241601 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Aug 81 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Aug (KUNA)--Possibilities that the fire which broke out in the fuel depots of Kuwait National Petroleum Company was an act of subversion are ruled out, Health Minister and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi said today. The prosecutor general is questioning all refinery personnel in an effort to collect information about the incident, he added.

Losses sustained as a result of the fire will exceed the value of the burned fuel, as the refinery and other installations in the area were brought to a stoppage.

At present, the fire fighting operation is concentrated to ensure that flames will not extend to the refinery installations, he said. The real danger had almost dwindled and we expect that fuel in the burning depot will be exhausted by Monday evening or Tuesday morning, the acting state minister added.

Meanwhile, a ministerial committee headed by Public Works Minister 'Abdallah Dukhayl ar-Rushayd is to be formed to investigate causes of the fire which broke out in Ash-Shu'aybah industrial area on Thursday, the Kuwait Cabinet decided today in its weekly meeting. The Cabinet also called on the prosecutor general to conduct an inquiry. The ministerial committee will also study the aspects of safety and recommend on means of security in oil installations and evaluate current efforts to control the fire.

Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Al-Khalifah was called upon to present a report on material damages in the installations and actual losses sustained by the state as a result of the breakout.

The Cabinet listened to a comprehensive report on efforts to put the Ash-Shu'aybah fire which hit the depots of Kuwait National Petroleum Company and a detailed discussion was carried out by Cabinet members. The meeting paid tribute to efforts exerted by the authorities concerned to control the fire and overcome the problem.

In the course of its discussion of Ash-Shu'aybah fire, the Council of Ministers was informed on contacts made by neighboring states, particularly Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and Bahrain, who offered to place their capabilities at the disposal of Kuwait. The council expressed appreciation for the kind gestures and acting state minister expressed a belief that Kuwait was not needing assistance at the time being.

Dr al-'Awadi expressed hopes that the problem would be overcome but assistance from those Arab countries would be called if the necessity arises.

OMAN

EGYPT'S HASAN DEPARTS AFTER MEETING QABUS

GF241659 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Mansur Hasan, minister of state for the presidency and minister of culture and information in the Arab Republic of Egypt, left Oman early today. Omani Minister of Information and Youth Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas and the head of the Egyptian mission to the Sultanate saw him off.

Before leaving As-Sib International Airport, Mansur said: My visit to the sultanate was a good occasion, during which I felt the brotherly emotions that the noble Omani people, led by His Majesty Sultan Qabus, harbor toward Egypt and the Arab nation. These noble feelings are not srange to the Omani people, who are characterized by Arab nobility and gallantry. I have seized the opportunity and informed His Majesty Sultan Qabus of the message his brother President Anwar as-Sadat sent him pertaining to subjects discussed during his recent visit to the United States, foremost among which was, naturally, the peace process in the Middle East and As-Sadat's call for finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis, a solution that would restore Arab rights to the palestinian people and to all Arab countries.

The Egyptian president, during his visit, also called for talks between the United States and the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, as well as for U.S.-Saudi cooperation in carrying out the U.S. role in achieving a cease-fire in Lebanon. During his visit President as-Sadat also urged the United States to take care in answering the needs of Arab countries requesting assistance and purchasing arms, particularly with regard to the AWACS planes, which Saudi Arabia has requested and which currently is under consideration in the U.S. Congress. President as-Sadat defended Saudi Arabia's request and urged the United States to meet this request in support of the Arab countries' position in the region.

OIL UNDER SECRETARY COMMENTS ON PRODUCTION POLICY

GF231609 Doha QNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Text] Muscat, 23 Aug (ANQ)--Salim Sha'ban, under secretary of the Petroleum and Minerals Ministry in the Sultanate of Oman, announced that his country will maintain a stable rate of oil production ranging between 320,000 and 330,000 barrels per day. However, he pointed out that current production policy will be reviewed should new oilfields be discovered.

On the current situation in the international oil market, Sha'ban said in a statement published by the newspaper OMAN today that the present glut is a transitory situation. The oil-producing countries should arrive at an agreement on a unified production and pricing policy.

SAUDI ARABIA

MAS'UD COMMENTS ON OIL PRICES, OPEC CONFERENCE

LD222000 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers and acting minister of petroleum and mineral affairs and acting information minister, has announced that the kingdom has decided to cut its oil production by an average 1 million barrels per day from next September. This is based on its desire to strengthen and support OPEC. In answer to a question from the SPA correspondent about the truth behind what happened at the OPEC conference in Geneva and about the attitude adopted by the kingdom in regard to the question of prices, he said: At the conference the kingdom agreed to raise the price of its oil to $34 a barrel as an act of solidarity with the member states, and also because this price is considered a middle one among the prevailing prices. He added that when the kingdom agreed to attend the Geneva meeting it had definite assurances that the price of $34 a barrel would be a acceptable as a median solution to the question of prices. However, after arriving in Geneva, one country or more tried to bargain and create a new atmosphere different from what one expected.

Shaykh Mas'ud expressed regret that the states which opposed lowering the price of their oil to $34 per barrel under OPEC will be compelled to reduce their price to even less than $34 outside the organization, and thus they will harming themselves and the organization. His excellency denied that the surplus of oil on the oil market was caused by the kingdom's oil production. He said that the voices which maintain this have shut their eyes to the drop in demand and to the drop in OPEC's share. This share dropped from 31 million barrels per day to less than 24 million barrels per day. The fall will continue in the coming year and this will bring this share down to less than 22 million barrel per day. In his answer, Shaykh Mas'ud explained the truth behind the oil position and the kingdom's view on the question of prices and production, and here is the text of his excellency's answer:

[Begin recording] [Question] Your Excellency, what is the truth about what happened at the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva and the attitude of the kingdom toward the issues that were debated by the conference, particularly the question of prices?

[Answer] I contacted my colleague His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, after the meeting to discover the truth about what happened at the meeting. I would like to explain that when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia agreed to attend the meeting it had a definite assurance about the price of $34 per barrel being a middle solution to the prices. But after arriving in Geneva one state or more tried to bargain and create a new atmosphere, which is different from what was expected. The drop in demand for oil which has been caused by the rise in the prices of oil in the last 2 years cannot be tackled except by a price reduction and, therefore, the idea of raising the price is in itself against the interests of the OPEC states generally, and the kingdom in particular, because the kingdom relies primarily on its income from oil. Nevertheless, and in the shadow of the current circumstances, the kingdom has agreed to unify the price by raising its price to $34 per barrel, because this is considered to be a middle price among those prevailing in the market and it will thus have fixed the price at its real level without a reduction or an increase. As for fixing the price of oil at a higher level than $34 per barrel, this means a real increase in the price and an additional encouragement for capital to start flowing into projects to find energy substitutes.

Many experts inside the OPEC meetings said that the economic factors, which are kept apart from political disputes, call for lowering the price to $28. Therefore, in the shadow of what the economists said, the least thing to do was not to raise the price higher than $34 per barrel.

[Question] What is the current situation in the world oil market and what is the kingdom's future outlook on prices?

[Answer] There is a major point which should be taken into consideration, and it is that the OPEC share in the world market used to be more than 31 million barrels a day. This share has now dropped to less than 24 million barrels a day. This decrease will continue next year and its share will be less than 22 million barrels a day. Nevertheless, the OPEC states did not move to face this imminent danger and the Arab states, while seeing that the political power of oil will decrease if the unification of the oil price is not carried out on a sound economic basis, made no move.

Regrettably, in the international community, the situation was the opposite to this. Voices were raised claiming that the cause of the surplus was the increase in the average production, in Saudi production, and their eyes were closed to the figures, which outrageously show the drop in the demand for oil together with the fall in OPEC's share, as we have already said.

It is regrettable that the states which opposed the lowering of their price to $34 per barrel under the OPEC umbrella will be compelled to reduce their price to less than $34 outside the OPEC umbrella. Thus, they will have done harm to themselves and to the organization.

Finally, the kingdom never ceased acting to strengthen OPEC and still works in collaboration with and support for it. And as an expression of good will and to strengthen its stand, the kingdom has decided to reduce its production by 1 million barrels next September. At the same time, it has agreed, in solidarity with OPEC states, to raise its price to $34 per barrel while bearing in mind that, by reducing Saudi production, the surplus exists in the international market, and the surplus can only by lifted by an increase in OPEC's share of the market. This cannot happen except by unifying the price agreed with the kingdom, namely, $34 per barrel of oil. [end recording]

COMMENTARY ON SAUDI STAND AT OPEC CONFERENCE

LD232250 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Observers have confirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is still striving to consolidate and cooperate with OPEC in order to safeguard OPEC's unity.

It is clear that the kingdom's policy vis-a-vis oil is based on a clear foundation that aims at the realization of the public interest, despite the fact that oil is the main source of income. Through a balanced and realistic practice of the needs of the international market, the kingdom adheres to firm principles, and has reaffirmed its realization of its responsibilities vis-a-vis not only the processes of domestic development but also the realization of relaxation at the international economic level. There is no doubt that the statement made by the minister of state, acting minister of petroleum and mineral affairs and acting minister of information, Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, about the results of the recent OPEC conference defines the dimensions of the Saudi attitude, which is totally appropriate to the kingdom's interest and is in harmony with the means that aim at preserving the OPEC entity and at promoting an international climate for solving the problems relating to oil at the international market level.

The kingdom attended the Geneva OPEC conference hoping that understanding of the dimensions and angles of the important issues which OPEC should deal with in connection with prices and production would prevail. But the attempt by some to (?obstruct) the progress with regard to vital issues did not allow the conference to produce the expected results. However, facts confirm that the kingdom's decision served as practical proof of the continuation of responsible attitudes by the kingdom's government, which always strives for consolidating OPEC and particpates in a calculated logic in the realization of OPEC's interests, in addition to the international interest, which depends on oil as a source of energy.

A realistic view will reaffirm beyond any shadow of doubt that there is an oil surplus in the international market in addition to a reduction in OPEC's share--a matter which the OPEC member countries should realize, as this constitutes a main cause for the problems from which the organization is suffering. This is the reason why the kingdom insists on the principle of working for the reduction of prices by an amount which helps absorb this surplus of oil as a method for bringing back the natural rates to the international market.

By its decision the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is continuing its responsibility in the sphere of oil and is setting an example for the OPEC member countries in expressing a commitment and realistic approach in behavior because all economic pointers confirm that the raising of prices will not be a remedy: It is a matter that threatens all those who are deliberately raising their prices without an understanding of the oil process as a whole.

UAE

PAPER VIEWS U.S. 'TERRORISM' IN LIBYAN CLASH

GF201923 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Aug 81 p 1

[Editorial: "A Dangerous International Precedent"]

[Text] The simplest description of the incident in which a number of U.S. F-14 aircraft downed two Libyan aircraft of a far less advanced model in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra is an unprecedented act of provocative terrorism between two countries not in a state of war, at least since the establishment of the United Nations and the formation of a recognized international law to regulate relationships between country members on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

It is an unacceptable arrogant aggression by a superpower, which possesses so many weapons and enough means of power to destroy the whole earth many times over, against a Third World country, whose potential need not be compared with those of the United States.

Even the U.S. communique issued by the Pentagon on the incident is no less provocative than the aggression itself. The communique says that the "clash" took place over Sidra Gulf where 25 U.S. naval ships have been carrying out a routine missile-launching maneuver since 12 August. It asserts that the Sidra Gulf is in international waters--so long as Washington does not recognize Libya's special decision to expand its territorial waters to an area of 200 miles.

The communique finally claims that the aggressive F-14 aircraft were in a state of self-defense because the Libyan aircraft began the attack. It does not forget to record that the U.S. aircraft returned safely to base and intact, that none of their pilots was injured and that the maneuvers in the Sidra Gulf would proceed according to plan.

It is very clear that anyone who reads the U.S. communique will ask two basic questions: First, why did the U.S. Navy leave all the world's oceans and seas, which constitute three-fifths of the Earth, and carry out its maneuvers in Libya in an area claimed by Libya as part of its territorial waters, particularly since it is surrounded by Libyan soil to the east, south and southwest?

Second: How can we believe that Tripoli would only send two aircraft, and SU-22's at that, to intercept aircraft of the U.S 6th Fleet, which is conducting maneuvers and which has two aircraft carriers with about 200 aircraft on board--all of which are models that exceed the two Libyan aircraft in speed and equipment and which were not interceptors? A third question remains: Would the U.S. aircraft dare to down the two aircraft if they were carrying the flag of a superpower, whether it were friend or foe of the United States?

The U.S. aggression is negligent and careless as it is malignant and hostile. The Arabs--from the ocean to the Gulf--cannot ignore that the victim of this flagrant aggression was an Arab party.

Some Arabs may differ with Libya on things more than they agree with it. However, all of them, without exception, consider this premeditated aggression by the United States as directed against all Arabs.

It is not easy for them to forget that this aggression came 24 hours after the decision to deliver U.S. aircraft to Israel. After all this, we can safely say that the most inveterate enemies of the United States would not be able to harm it or undermine its interests in the Arab world to the extent of this aggression.

What we greatly fear is that this U.S. provocation will be an introduction to a wider operation against Libya, as many observers expect. If these expectations come true, it will be a strategic error, the size of the sin and the ramifications of which would be immeasurable.

UAE TO INCREASE OIL REFINING CAPACITY BY 1983

GF241137 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES In English 24 Aug 81 p 1

[Text] (ENA)--UAE will rank fourth among Arab countries in oil refining capacity by 1982, according to an official study published in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The study, made by Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, estimates that the 1983 refining capacity of the country will be 290,000 barrels per day (BPD), compared to 150,000 BPD in 1979.

The refining capacity of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) member states has reached 2.76 million BPD and is expected to go up to 5.36 million BPD in 1983.

PDRY

MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON SOLIDARITY WITH LIBYA

EA201642 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Communique issued by PDRY Foreign Ministry on 19 August]

[Text] The PDRY Government received with great anxiety the news of the outrageous incident of aggression to which two Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah (SPLAJ] air defense force military aircraft were subjected this morning by aircraft of the U.S. fleet which is plying the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

This instance of piracy falls within the context of the provocations and hostile threats being directed against the fraternal Libyan people and their heroic revolution led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in order to destabilize their steadfastness, to liquidate the achievements of the Great 1 September Revolution and to render it incapable of participating effectively in the just struggle of the peoples of our Arab nation and of the nationalist and progressive forces against imperialism and Zionism and their agent props.

All the indications of U.S. imperialism's escalating military and political moves show that U.S. imperialism and its agents are making comprehensive plans to liquidate the Arab nationalist liberation movement, in order to prepare the way for promoting conspiratorial and treasonous plans headed by the infamous Camp David accords, the primary aim of which is to impose the imperialist and Zionist forces control over the destinies and resources of our Arab peoples and suppress their lawful rights, headed by the Palestinian Arab people's right to return to their homeland and build their own independent state.

This outrageous incident is a continuation of imperialism's aggressive and crazy course which is aimed at shaking the steadfastness of our Arab peoples and destroying their sovereignty, security and stability.

What happened to sisterly Libya today is nothing but a further indication of the danger of the imperialist military presence in the Arab homeland and which has begun to proliferate in an essentially warlike manner through its military bases and provocative maneuvers in the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

The PDRY has stressed on more than one occasion its rejection and condemnation of his military presence which is hostile to our Arab peoples. It has called upon all honorable men jealous of safeguarding their sovereigny, security and stability in our Arab homeland to act effectively toward bringing about the evacuation of imperialism's military bases and thereby alleviate the dangers posed by imperialism's presence in the territories, waters and airspace of the Arab countries and other neighboring countries.

The need for this is indicated by the escalation of imperialism's military activities which are becoming a direct threat to the security and stability of the Arab homeland, the African Continent and the whole world.

Our country condemns this arrogant and aggressive incident which is truly an aggression against the security, sovereignty and stability of our Arab peoples and the peoples of the neighboring areas, and warns against the consequences of silence over these provocative acts. The PDRY stresses that our Arab peoples are today more conscious, alert and capable of confronting the dangers being directed against the just Arab struggle, as represented by the aggressive incidents taking place in southern Lebanon, Beirut, Baghdad and Libya.

There is no doubt that these reckless provocations will not be able to weaken the steadfastness of the Arab masses and their nationalist and progressive regimes, nor will they be able to divert them from pressing on with the struggle until victory is won.

Strengthening the unity of the Arab nationalist and progressive forces and consolidating their struggle for solidarity with all forces in the world which love liberation, progress, peace and socialism constitute under existing circumstances a strong foundation from which to foil imperialism's mounting and expanding assault in various parts of the world with the aim of crushing the just hopes and aspirations of the peoples and obstructing their struggle toward achieving their noble aims.

Toward this terrible incident, which is rejected by Democratic Yemen and all the honorable people of the world, Democratic Yemen announces its full and unlimited solidarity with the struggle of the fraternal Libyan people. It confirms that the Yemeni people's resources and fighting tradition will never be aloof from any danger threatening steadfast Libya's revolution. Our position is based on the friendship and cooperation agreement and the unity of destiny, joint aims and firm principles for which the Yemeni and Libyan peoples are fighting.

YAR

LEBANESE ENVOY CONVEYS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

JN241727 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his office at 1000 today Mahmud 'Ammar, Lebanese minister of state for the affairs of the south and evacuees, who is visiting the country. The Lebanese minister handed the president a written message from Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for people's constituent assembly affairs, attended the meeting.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS 25 AUG

NC251030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 25 Aug 81

[Text] Alexandria, 25 Aug (MENA)--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin arrived in Alexandria at 1105 today on a 2-day visit to Egypt. Begin and the delegation accompanying him were met at An-Nuzhah Airport by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd Al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Mansur Hasan, Justice Minister and head of the honorary escorting mission counselor Ahmad Sayyid Sami, Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Sasson, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada and senior state officials.

Begin was accorded an official reception at the airport, where the band played the Egyptian and Israeli national anthems, after which Begin reviewed the honor guard and two children presented bouquets of flowers to him. After the Israeli prime minister greeted his well-wishers he was accompanied by Mubarak to a brief rest at the airport and then to As-Safa Palace, where he will be staying.

Begin is accompanied by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. A political and military delegation is also accompanying Begin for talks with Kamal Hasan 'Ali within the framework of the joint Egyptian-Israeli commission to discuss the final arrangements for the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE VIEWS AS-SADAT-BEGIN TALKS

NC241552 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that tomorrow's meeting between President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is of special importance because it follows the important events which took place in the Middle East, especially the raid against the Iraqi reactor, the attack on civilian targets in Lebanon and the cease-fire in Lebanon. The meeting also comes after the formation of the new Israeli Cabinet, President as-Sadat's visit to the United States, the Saudi concept of a solution to the crisis and the proposals announced by the PLO for solving the Middle East problem. The source said that all this is a pointer that there is an actual tendency in the Arab states toward a mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and toward settling the Middle East issue in a peaceful and comprehensive way on the basis of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. This tendency gives new dimensions to the achievement of a total withdrawal. This is the same trend which Egypt has followed and which President as-Sadat emphasized during his discussions in the United States and in his call for holding a dialogue with the Palestinians because they have a cause and they must pursue their cause by themselves, as well as his call for preparing the political atmosphere and preparing the Palestinians and the Israelis to sit together and start a dialogue on the establishment of autonomous rule.

The source added that Egypt is implementing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, that autonomy is the issue which is under discussion and that all its dimensions must be implemented. The source stressed that Egypt does not choose between the Arabs and Israel but that it seeks a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question and a just solution to the Palestinian problem, which is the foundation stone for the achievement of comprehensive peace. He added that slogans must be abandoned and that the parties concerned must be prepared to sit together and start a dialogue to settle their question in a just manner.

AL-AHRAM: USSR FORCES IN SYRIA FOR MANEUVERS

NC240635 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Aug 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning the Soviet stand toward the Al-Asad regime in Syria, AL-AHRAM casts light on reports by informed Arab sources in Beirut that reports from Damascus indicate that the Soviet forces are preparing to conduct new joint maneuvers with the Syrian forces to demonstrate that the Soviet Union supports the ruling 'Alawite Ba'thist regime in Syria in the face of the isolation it is suffering. Informed sources say that large numbers of Soviet land forces, accompanied by several brigade commanders, have recently arrived in Syria to participate in amphibious maneuvers like those conducted in late June and early July.

MANSUR HASAN RETURNS FROM VISIT TO OMAN 24 AUG

NC241631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1559 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)--Mansur Hasan, minister of state for the presidency and for culture and information, returned to Cairo this afternoon from Muscat following a 2-day visit to Oman during which he handed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Sultan Wabus on the outcome of the president's visit to the United States. In a statement to a MENA correspondent after his arrival, Mansur Hasan said that Sultan Qabus expressed his full understanding and support for everything Egypt had raised and for its positions on the various international and Arab issues.

Mansur Hasan added that Sultan Qabus showed special interest in the importance of Arab coordination on the peace process at this stage so that Egypt can accomplish the proposals it has raised, especially that these proposals are supported by many governments in Western Europe and the Middle East.

LEFTWING, ISLAMIC GROUP CLASH OVER COMMUNIQUE

NC231320 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (AFP)--A row has broken out between a left-wing party here and an Islamic fundamentalist group that launched an attack against Egyptian Copts, Jews and the Soviet Union.

The Progressive Unionist Party Tajammu', comprising Marxists and Nasserians, published a blistering criticism of a communique from the Islamic group in the latest copy of its party organ AT-TAQADDUM. The communique, released at the end of the Moslem fast of Ramadan earlier this month and reprinted in AT-TAQADDUM, denounced "Jewish plots against Islam abroad" as well as Christian plots against Islam within Egypt. It accused the Christian Copts of wanting to make Egypt "another Lebanon" and also slammed the superpowers because "Russia is atheist and the United States supports the Jews in Israel".

AT-TAQADDUM, in its reply, lashed the communique for accusing the Copts of plotting against the state, adding that the Copts had always been Egyptian and had always fought side by side with Moslems against their common enemies. Althought there might be some traitors among the Copts, the paper said, this had nothing to do with their religion and it was a highly dangerous delusion to accuse Copts in general of treason. AT-TAQADDUM accused the Islamic communique of making "imaginary enemies" of the Soviet Union, and added that the Israelis were enemies of Egypt because they were Zionists, not because they were Jewish. It ended by accusing the Israeli secret service Mossad, the Egyptian Government and the U.S. of provoking the rise of fanaticism to mask social problems. AT-TAQADDUM is not represented in the Egyptian parliament.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 439

JN241719 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Communique No 439 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 August 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With confidence and high morale, our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our forward units raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Sumar region and hit them hard with various weapons, killing 32 and destroying 7 infantry positions, 2 guns and 3 stockpiles of hardware.
B. One of our combat units raided enemy forward positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. Following a fierce battle, the enemy lost 23 killed and 5 vehicles destroyed.
C. Our units pounded with various weapons enemy concentrations in front of their positions in the Dezful region, killing 21 and destroying 1 observation post.
D. Seven killed and 1 gun and 3 stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.
E. Four killed in the Shush region.
F. Two killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
G. One gun destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
H. One enemy fighter plane was shot down this afternoon in the southern sector of the operations theater.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 89 killed and 7 infantry positions, 5 vehicles, 4 guns, 6 stockpiles of hardware, 1 observation post and 1 fighter plane destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Two martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two mortars damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 August 1981

RAMADAN DISCUSSES IRANIAN WAR, CRITICIZES SYRIA

JN241100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that the arming of the Iraqi Army is taking place in an ordinary and good manner, encountering no obstacles or impediments.

In a statement to INA on the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war, Ramadan reiterated that the Iranian regime's efforts to halt the wheel of progress and development in Iraq have failed. He said the development movement in Iraq is being implemented with high efficiency compared with the same period last year despite the enlistment of a large number of employees belonging to various state sectors. This is in addition to the 43,000 fighters of the popular army permanently stationed on the front lines and consisting of engineers, technicians, workers and administrators.

Discussing the effects of the war on the Arab arena, Ramadan said that Iraq's continued victories for 1 whole year and the fact that its forces are fighting deep inside enemy territory have greatly influenced the morale of the Arab citizen. On the other hand, treasonous rulers have depicted the Arabs as incapable of confronting the Zionist enemy because it possesses arms better than theirs and because the Zionist soldier is better than the Arab soldier.

He asserted that Syria's stand on the side of the Iranian enemy is a betrayal of the Arabs irrespective of its justifications. He said that it is also treason for some Arab rulers to accept the usurpation of Arab land by Iran.

Touching on mediation efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, Ramadan reiterated that Iraq's stand on these efforts has not changed. Iraq, he added, continues to maintain this principled stand and is ready to cooperate to facilitate all efforts at mediation and good offices.

Ramadan refuted the contentions of those who say that continuing the war will exhaust Iraq. He added that the Iraqi forces are ceaselessly scoring victories, the development process is proceeding well, and the domestic front is strong and solid. The contrary is taking place in Iran: Its land is occupied, its economy is deteriorating, and there are 6 million jobless, whereas there are 2 million non-Iraqis working in Iraq.

Ramadan underlined that every passing day of the war will mean a further deterioration in Iran's economy and further political and geographical division as well as a further deterioration of its relations with the world.

Regarding the Arab citizens in the Ahvaz, Ramadan said that Iraq has been and is still with every Arab everywhere. Iraq is with the Arab people in the Ahvaz and with their demands. No one can deny that the Ahvaz is inhabited by Arabs.

ANTI-SYRIAN RADIO: SABOTAGE IN PRIME MINISTRY BLAST

JN242042 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1926 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Fellow citizens, a report on the Prime Ministry explosion follows:

At about 1000 am on 17 August, the date fixed for the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers, a Land Rover with a government license plate approached the Prime Ministry building. The Land Rover's driver entered the yard of the Prime Ministry building after showing an official pass. The driver then parked the Land Rover in an area opposite the Prime Ministry building.

Inside the building, some of the ministers suggested attending the final meeting of the 4-year People's Assembly session. The ministers, accompanied by [Prime minister] 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, left the Prime Ministry building at about 1030. The meeting of the Council of Ministers was scheduled for 1100 am.

At exactly 1115 the Land Rover, which was loaded with high explosives and incendiaries, exploded, shaking the entire city of Damascus. The building caught fire and ambulances and helicopters rushed to the scene, trying to rescue those inside the building and to evacuate the dead and wounded. The fire was not extinguished for 2 hours and the helicopters failed to rescue many of those inside the building because of the intensity of the heat. Ambulances and rescue squads managed to evacuate many of the dead and wounded, and rescued others as well. Confirmed reports indicate that the real number of dead is over 30 and more than 50 others were wounded.

Immediately afterwards more than 130 persons, including some of the ministers who had suggested attending the People's Asssembly session, were arrested. We say: Were it not for this sudden postponement, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm would have faced the same fate as Beheshti. However, this is not too far from being achieved.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON COMMANDOS, U.S. RELATIONS

GF250536 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Aug 81 p 15

[Exclusive interview with Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah granted to AS-SIYASAH correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] AS-SIYASAH: The idea of an alternative homeland was coupled with statements by officials of some of the organizations on the need to return to Jordan and resume commando operations from there. It was also announced that some operations and activities have been carried out from Jordanian territory. What is your opinion on the resumption of commando operations from Jordan at this particular time and the dangers involved in that?

Minister Abu 'Awdah: This issue is both an old and a new one that officials of some of the commando organizations put forward from time to time knowing full well that the issue of commando operations from Jordanian territory is linked to a unified Arab strategy. A relevant resolution was adopted by summit conferences and is known to all, including these officials. I read these statements recently, and I can only say that they spring from political considerations within the framework of inter-Arab relations and not from an Arab consensus to which Jordan is a basic party. It is the personal view of some people and springs from personal political considerations of their relations with certain Arab parties. As I said, the Arabs agreed that this issue should be part of other Arab efforts, not only on the military front or commando activities, but also economic action and the financial front, all of which complement each other as efforts to counter Zionist expansion.

AS-SIYASAH: Political observers are affirming that Jordanian-U.S. relations are not good. It is said that these relations are at the lowest point in 30 years. What is your comment?

Minister Abu 'Awdah: As is known and is evident to all, there is a difference between Jordan and the United States on the Palestinian cause and the issue of peace in the Middle East. Jordan has its national stands. It announces these stands when it adopts them. It believes in and abides by them. I can say that we passed through two main turning points. The first was in Rabat in 1974, when Jordan announced its known stand in recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan was subject to many pressures and taunts, but in spite of this, it stood firm because it adopted this stand out of its belief and in light of the national interest. The second turning point was Jordan's stand at the Baghdad conference. Jordan abided by the Baghdad conference resolutions, after which we came under pressures of various degrees from several directions. However, these pressures will not deter us from this stand because first we believe it is a national stand and second we are committed to our responsibility toward this national stand. We will not retreat 1 inch. Third, this national stand is a true one and is based on basic legal conceptions, UN resolutions and Arab consensus. I can say that Jordan's clear and open national stands which it courageously adheres to and according to which it acts in the international arena are causing it some trouble.

I believe that this is one of the differences that existed between us and the United States. Jordan's name was included in Camp David as a partner. Jordan rejected this. This rejection may have been considered an impediment to the Camp David process. Therefore, it was natural that a difference arose between us and the United States on this matter. However, they admit this difference between us. This is between us and them. The whole issue is that we continue to act according to our responsibility and in view of our national commitments, as I said, particularly the Baghdad and Rabat resolutions. Meanwhile, Jordan has been explaining its stand to the Americans. We have been telling them that Camp David does not mean the solution of the Palestinian issue because it was originally based on incorrect conceptions and assumptions. Anything based on such assumptions will not terminate in correct results.

The United States knows that our viewpoint--which is in line with the views of most Arab countries--will ultimately be victorious and will be the basis for understanding this issue.

AS-SIYASAH: Mr Minister, we return to rumors that circulated during 'Id and reports of the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR about arrests in Jordan. What is your comment on this?

Minister Abu 'Awdah: What the Lebanese paper published 2 days before 'Id--it was reported by Israel in more than one newscast and moved from Beirut to Israel and then to some Western papers--is baseless and too absurd to warrant denial. Rumors continue and persist in every society and in every country. The government does not exist to refute rumors. This report is categorically false and was based on false information. I do not want to say at this stage that these rumors ultimately serve what you mentioned in your first question--the creation of confusion on the eastern front.

AS-SIYASAH: What is Jordan's viewpoint on the U.S. Administration's decision to lift the embargo on aircraft to Israel?

Minister Abu 'Awdah: In fact, it is known that the U.S. policy of arming Israel has been based on certain conceptions over the past 30 years. In continuing this policy, it has harmed not only the Arabs but the entire peace issue. Before 1967, the U.S. stand on arming Israel was based on a commitment to preserve Israel's security. It continued to supply Israel with arms after 1967 although it knew that Israel was obstructing peace. The U.S. pretext--especially during Nixon's and Kissinger's days--was that arming Israel meant assuring it of its future. Its future assured, Israel would be receptive to peace.

Regretfully, such a conception and such ideas proved futile. They even proved that Israel was getting more aggressive after 1967. After 1973 they were associated with Israel's incessant efforts to settle in the occupied land, to create a new status quo, to change the Arab situation and to alter the population balance by bringing in more Jews, thus violating the Geneva Charter.

SARKIS' ENVOY DEPARTS AMMAN AFTER MEETINGS

JN241222 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Amman--'Abd ar-Rahman al-Labban, Lebanese minister of labor and social affairs and his excellency the Lebanese president's personal envoy, left Amman today at the end of a visit to Jordan during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, to whom he delivered a message from President Sarkis to His Majesty King Husayn on Lebanon's request for convening an extraordinary Arab summit meeting to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

During his 2-day visit, the Lebanese Minister also met with several senior Jordanian officials.

He was seen off at Amman airport by Labor Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani, the Foreign Ministry's protocol director and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN241646 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Damascus--At 1630 this afternoon Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, arriv i in Damascus leading an official delegation on a visit to Syria to meet with President afiz al-Asad and Syrian senior officials on current issues.

He was received by President Hafiz al-Asad at Damascus International Airport. He was also received by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party regional assistant secretary; members of the Ba'th Party national and regional commands; Syrian ministers; 'Abd as-Salam ibn Khayyal, head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus; and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, welcomed Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the plane.

As President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi walked toward the dais the band played the Libyan and the Syrian national anthems. The artillery fired a 21 gun-salute for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The president and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi reviewed the guards of honor. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi shook hands with those who came to welcome him.

At the end of the reception ceremony the motorcade of the president and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi left for the guest palace where Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will reside during his visit.

Meets With President

JN242147 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad held a dinner banquet at the Damascene Hall tonight in honor of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution. The Libyan delegation accompanying Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party regional command assistant secretary; members of the Ba'th Party regional and national commands; Syrian ministers; the head and members of the People's Bureau in Libya; and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions were invited to the banquet.

Before the banquet, President Hafiz al-Asad and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met alone and discussed the recent developments in the Arab region, particularly the U.S. aggression against the Arab nation manifested by the attack on the Libyan planes. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will meet with the Ba'th Party national and regional commands tomorrow.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS CHEYSSON-'ARAFAT MEETING

TA241711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 81

[From the evening newsreel]

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, this evening conveyed Israel's anger to the French ambassador to Israel regarding the upcoming meeting between French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and Yasir 'Arafat. Our political correspondent reports that the French ambassador promised to convey Israel's position on the matter to Paris. He expressed his personal doubts whether this meeting would materialize.

EGYPT ACCUSED OF SLOWING DOWN PEACE PROCESS

TA241817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] In Jerusalem today Israeli officials again criticized Egypt's attitude to normalizing relations. Foreign Ministry Director David Kimche accused Egypt of slowing down the peace process to suit its political goals. Kimche told reporters that Israel would not link its final withdrawal from the Sinai with the normalization process.

DAVAR ON IDF'S DEPLOYMENT AFTER SINAI WITHDRAWAL

TA241401 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 81 p 3

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] The IDF's operational deployment in the Negev will not be affected in April 1982 when the last Israeli soldier leaves the Sinai in the framework of the peace plan with Egypt.

In contrast, there is already a delay in the establishment of permanent buildings in some of the camps which will be built in the Negev to replace those in the Sinai.

The delay in the establishment of permanent buildings will affect the living standards of the regular soldiers, but it will not affect the operational alertness and the deployment of the forces according to the operational plans. Some of the delay stems from budgetary difficulities: Whereas it had been initially planned to build the permanent buildings in the Negev bases over a period of 5 years, it now emerges that this will take longer and will be spread over a period of 7 years or more.

Authoritative IDF elements yesterday said that this delay does not come as a surprise. The extended period of time for completing the construction of the permanent buildings in the Negev stems from changes introduced into the original plan which were based on new and more modern concepts.

SHAMIR, BURG COMMENT ON ALEXANDRIA SUMMIT ISSUES

TA231855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Report by political correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami including remarks by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Inteior Minister Yosef Burg on 23 August, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Israel wants a speedy resumption of the stalled autonomy talks, but Egypt's foreign minister and other officials have been saying that the talks may not begin before the end of the year--to allow clarification of various issues and to let the U.S. Administration work out its policy after visits from Middle East leaders. Israel's foreign minister says he's not impressed by these Egyptian statements.

[Shamir] There were many statements and I hope--I believe--that when our prime minister will have his talks with President as-Sadat they will find a common language and they will decide together about the resumption of the autonomy talks.

[Ben-'Ami] Dr Burg asks: Why should visits to the United States by Saudi or Jordanian leaders be allowed to affect resumption of the talks? And, he says, regarding the other Egyptian statements: These have all been heard before. And he calls them disharmonious.

[Burg] I believe that the Egyptians have to make up their mind if this--what was signed in Camp David concerning peace and concerning autonomy talks--will remain a piece of paper or will start to be a piece of reality: they have to decide. Because someone says, we want to discuss the settlements, someone says he doesn't know exactly the meaning of autonomy, that is part of our negotiations, and someone wants to bring up Jerusalem as part of the autonomy talks when in Camp David was signed they knew where Jerusalem is and how Jerusalem is governed [as heard]. Therefore I believe this is background music, and President as-Sadat will have to say if he is ready to continue with the talks, to renew them or not.

[Ben-'Ami] Israel is due to make a final withdrawal from Sinai in April next year. Both ministers told me that the withdrawal will not be affected by the rate of progress either in the autonomy talks or in normalization between Egypt and Israel. Nevertheless, says Dr Burg, there is a psychological link.

[Burg] Whosoever says that we have to wait until the end of November, he says that we will be almost in the vicinity, in the proximity, of '82, and this is not a healthy idea. I believe we should very quickly start with our negotiations and try to come to an understanding.

[Ben-'Ami] Dr Burg denied press reports of new Israeli ideas or initiatives on autonomy that will be taken to the summit. There is no need for them, he says.

[Burg] I believe that Israel was very much forthcoming in our ideas concerning the administrative council. Concerning the categories that should remain with us, that should be immediately transmitted to the administrative council. I believe there was quite a lot of wrong done to Israel by the media that don't love Israel. I hope that this time, perhaps we can overcome.

[Ben-'Ami] The normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel will be another topic for discussion in Alexandria. Israel is not satisfied with progress in any of the areas of normalization, says Mr Shamir.

[Shamir] Economy: There must be normal trade relations. In culture there must be visits, visits of students, of professors, Egyptian professors here, Israeli professors there. Exchanges of visits in tourism: there are many Israeli tourists in Egypt, and we don't have any Egyptian tourists here. There must be a different tone in the press, in the media, about Israel, some kind of objectivity--not all the time against and against. It must be changed.

[Ben-'Ami] Tomorrow President Reagan is going to raise before Congress the AWACS deal and the supply of other military equipment to Saudi Arabia. Israel of course is opposed to this deal, but the American administration, so we're told, is very very serious about getting this deal approved by Congress and getting it carried out. To what extent do you think Israel can still do anything about this, or would it be better now for Israel to rest quietly, having expressed its opposition?

[Shamir] Nothing happened that could change the Israeli position. We know the facts, and we know--we are convinced--that the AWACS in the hands of the Saudis will be dangerous for Israel. And even if American friends of Israel are interested to give it to Saudi Arabia, we cannot change our view about it.

MA'ARIV'S HARIF ON ALEXANDRIA, WASHINGTON SUMMITS

TA211638 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Aug 81 pp 14, 31

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Begin Was Determined Not To Go to Washington if the Suspended Aircraft Had Not Been Released"]

[Text] In the reply not addressed this week to Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Prime Minister Menahem Begin--after inquiring what has happened to the Habib mission following Habib's recent "disappearance"--writes about his forthcoming visit to Egypt for talks with President as-Sadat and says he will be able to report on the talks when he goes to Washington in early September.

Well may one wonder what rhyme or reason was there to squeezing the Alexandria trip into the prime minister's already tight schedule? It is only 3 months since the two men, Begin and As-Sadat, met at Ofira and discussed just about everything (except, of course, the Iraqi reactor), so what has come up in the meantime to compel the prime minister to take the trouble of going to Egypt while he is up to his neck in preparations for his journey to Washington for talks with President Reagan?

We hear it is the intention of the prime minister and of the ministers accompanying him to Egypt to get President as-Sadat to renew the autonomy talks. Now, does that warrant the Alexandria expedition by the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister and the interior minister? Doesn't Israel have in Cairo a talented ambassador who can take care of the matter, be it in person or by way of a note from the prime minister to the Egyptian president?

If the principal topic is the resumption of the autonomy talks--while Israel accuses Egypt of having broken them off for the fifth time--would it not be better to stay away until it was clearly established that As-Sadat is in fact ready for an early resumption of the talks? For if it turns out that no such resumption is possible, will that not be a humiliation for the prime minister and his suite of senior ministers, to say nothing of its underscoring the unsatisfactory state of relations between the two countries? And suppose As-Sadat does not mean to renew the autonomy talks--which, for the reasons stated, is something which should perforce be established before the visit--will not the expedition by such a large party be superfluous at such a time?

Thus, it must be deduced that the prime minister truly has some serious motive for a meeting with President as-Sadat at this particular time.

"At this time"--prior to his talks with President Reagan so that an estimate can be made of As-Sadat's readiness for genuine cooperation with Israel and for joint planning of regional strategy, already discussed between As-Sadat and the U.S. President--means, from Israel's point of view: before implementation of the final phase of Israel's total withdrawal from the Sinai in some 7 months.

Israel, to be sure, has repeatedly declared that irrespective of the degree of progress in the autonomy talks, it will meet all its commitments to Egypt, including total withdrawal, but here and there Egypt has shown signs of uneasiness. And this perhaps is the time to get to the moment of truth with Egypt or, as someone in Jerusalem phrased it, "the true moment of truth."

All previous meetings between the two leaders opened and closed with mutual understanding and smiles, even when the one did not agree with the other on basics. In the light of all these past meetings, an advance "script" of the forthcoming meeting can possibly be produced.

Now that As-Sadat himself has been to Washington and has sought to influence President Reagan to be so good as to influence Israel to acquiesce to a direct dialogue with the PLO--given the "precedent" recently set (Philip Habib's negotiations through the intermediary of the Saudis to secure a cease-fire on our northern border)--exactly what "dialogue" does he have in mind? Is its purpose not to advance the idea propounded by the Egyptian delegate to the United Nations (satisfaction of the Palestinians' "inalienable right" to an independent state)? If so--and this "inalienable right" may also be put to the prime minister--then what sort of "autonomy" is it that Begin and Shamir and Sharon and Burg wish to be the topic of renewed talks?

As-Sadat has admitted that the PLO, like Syria and Libya, is a "Soviet satellite in the full sense of the word," so what is it that he wants to propose to Israel? That Israel should agree to the establishment of a Palestinian-Soviet state on its border? And is this in accord with his so very concerned declarations, addressed "in all sincerity" to President Reagan, about the need for joint action to halt the menace of Soviet expansionism?

Now here, to all appearances, is the principal topic the prime minister wishes to discuss thoroughly with President as-Sadat "before April 1982." Begin does not intend to link completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai, including the airfields, the Rafah salient and Ofira settlements, to the autonomy issue. However, the important thing is to know where Egypt stands? If up to now--before complete withdrawal--Egypt acts the way it does, what will follow April 1982? What thrust will there be toward normalization, witherto a largely one-sided affair? Following completion of the withdrawal, will the Egyptians be more flexible in the autonomy talks? Can the prime minister and the foreign minister stand by their oft-repeated public contention that if there is no autonomy as Israel envisages it, then there will be no autonomy. But if "there will be no autonomy" will that not affect Egypt's attitude?

Consequently, Begin has a good reason for making his trip to Egypt. It is difficult to tell what will emerge from his trip this time--other than the "understanding" that will routinely be stressed at the press conference winding up the visit. But it was not to this end that the ministerial autonomy committee, chaired by the prime minister, saw itself obliged to decide that at this next meeting with As-Sadat there will be no attempt to go into details. Instead, there will be an overall review of the need to resume the autonomy talks. This was a weak decision. Of course, logic would have it that at such a level there is no possibility of going into details. Besides, what details still require attention? Have not virtually all possible details been thrashed out in previous talks? There is but one outstanding question: What, in the last resort, does As-Sadat want? Does he mean autonomy to be the infrastructure of a Palestinian state a few years hence? In that case, all the "details" are of no importance. So far, there has been no indication that he has anything in mind other than just such an "infrastructure."

If that is the way things are, then there is a state of permanent deadlock, devoid of compromise. If so, then what is the way out?

Hitherto, As-Sadat was among those who took it for granted that "my friend Shim'on Peres" had every prospect of winning the premiership. Had this come to pass, everything--so As-Sadat assumed--would have been that much simpler: Peres had declared himself ready for "Gaza first." On the terms of the Alignment platform, an interim settlement was also feasible in Judaea and Samaria (including withdrawal from certain areas). So new and varied options were open to As-Sadat. Now, willy-nilly he must conduct negotiations and "friendly talks" for heaven knows how long with "his friend Menahem Begin," and that is not so simple.

A way out? There is no way out in the harsh reality of present circumstances: As-Sadat cannot agree to "administrative autonomy for the inhabitants," as Begin wants and Begin--it goes without saying--cannot reconcile himself to an "infrastructure" as As-Sadat wants. Beyond that, it is quite impossible to introduce autonomy without the cooperation of the candidates who are to man its elected institutions, that is, from among the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el and not of Jordan which, under the Camp David agreement, is an element singled out for certain tasks within the framework of the future arrangements for Judaea and Samaria.

The realities of life have demonstrated that the assumptions guiding the conferees at Camp David--all of them, Americans, Egyptians and Israelis--were not realistic and do not hold water today. Jordan is not what it was and the Palestinians are not what they were. At the Arab foreign ministers conference, on 11 July 1980, Husayn called for an end to Israeli rule in the conquered territories, including Jerusalem, and he called for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, declaring that the Arabs will not renounce an inch of Jerusalem soil. At the same conference, Husayn also said that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, who must be accorded self-determination. On another occasion (in an interview on French radio on 2 March 1980), he stated that Jordan would not demand restoration of the West Bank "on account of the Rabat decisions" and he also said, in another interview, that there could be no surrender whatsoever of Palestinian rights or of conquered territories.

In sum, Husayn is not the same Husayn upon whom past governments cast a glad eye. The idea of the "Jordanian option" was debunked in 1981: Any surrender of territories to Jordan in present-day circumstances (as per the Alon plan, which is to this day favored by the majority of the Alignment, namely, surrender of 70 percent of the territories of Judaea and Samaria) means handing them to the Palestinians.

Maybe the way out in the long term will be found by severance of the "Hashemite tie," about which Defense Minister Sharon has spoken in all candor. In the final analysis, whoever is against a second Palestinian state, while at the same time accepting the premise that there can be no peace without a solution to the Palestinian problem, must come to the conclusion that partition of Eretz Yisra'el (in the mandate period borders) into two states--a Palestinian state and an Israeli state, divided by the Jordan river as their natural common border--is the logical way out in existing circumstances. Backing this concept are Sharon and Foreign Minister Shamir (and Begin--in tacit consent).

As-Sadat was asked recently, and he is likely to be asked again: Why can't he bring Jordan into the negotiations? The fact of the matter is that Husayn was among those who lashed out at As-Sadat's peace agreement and helped bring about his isolation in the Arab world. Since As-Sadat cannot bring in the Palestinians either, what next--is he going to pressure Israel to do so?

True, in order to try out new options, in the long term, the "momentum" must be kept up--which, in the realities of the Middle East, is but a sterile exercise--and this momentum goes by the name of autonomy talks.

However, Israel really does want to establish autonomy, since even under the terms of the "Jordanian option" as per the Begin-Sharon-Shamir concept--meaning satisfaction of the Palestinians' aspirations in Jordan--Israel wants administrative autonomy for the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria and Gaza, which will take care of Israel's demographic problem, on the one hand, and its security, on the other hand (for, according to Camp David, the IDF is authorized to stay put beyond the initial 5-year period of autonomy).

Evidently, for Prime Minister Menahem Begin to be able to get down to business with President Reagan, he needs to know at this stage, more than ever in the past, just where As-Sadat really stands on the autonomy issue. Reagan is the man who ruled out the PLO not only in his election campaign. He spoke of it as a "terrorist organization" and made the point that not every organization which glorifies itself with the word "liberation" but which nevertheless murders schoolchildren, deserves to be called guerrilla fighters. The PLO does not represent the Palestinian people, it represents only the leaders of an organization waging a war of aggression against Israel. He also ruled it out after his election to the White House. And it was he who did not hesitate to say frankly that there was no connection between the "oil crisis" and the Arab-Israeli conflict. (That crisis is just fictitious and being exploited to hit at Israel, he said). And he deems Israel a real strategic asset and does not use this term merely to tickle Jewish and Israeli ears. All in all, it may therefore be said that there are solid grounds on which the prime minister can base a good and stable relationship, personal and national, with the new U.S. Administration. But to bring this off, the prime minister has had to duly prepare himself for his first encounter with the President. For the very reason that the United States today regards Egypt as an important strategic factor--experienced observers in Israel point out that Egypt was a party to the aerial incident in which two Libyan planes were shot down by U.S. planes this week--it is important that Begin go to Washington in possession of an updated picture, including Egypt's stand on the autonomy issue.

"Autonomy" in the political realities of the Middle East today is a codeword. It has to be sufficiently attractive for Egypt not to reject it on account of Saudi Arabia and it has to be so structured that it will not lead to a state and a Soviet base. It has to be satisfactory to the outside world, or at least to Egypt so that no one can accuse Egypt of having abandoned the Palestinian cause. It has to enable the new U.S. Administration to steer its course in the Middle East and attain its stated purpose of bringing about a rapprochement with the countries of the region as a major step toward halting Soviet expansionism.

Now that Soviet strategy in Lebanon on the one side and in Libya on the other is fairly patent, namely, to exploit the Syrians and the Libyans to test the determination of the Reagan administration to support the U.S. clients--Israel (in Lebanon) and Egypt (in Libya) and thus inject Soviet diplomacy and military strength into the Middle East with ever-growing force--it would seem the basis has been created for a U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli dialogue. En route to this possible dialogue there are obstacles: misunderstandings between Israel and the United States against the background of the suspension of the aircraft deliveries and U.S. utterances and actions, both forthright and implicit, and U.S. relations with Egypt as April 1982 draws near. (It is difficult to shrug off the feeling that in Washington there are signs here and there of second thoughts about the PLO and the Palestinians).

"It may now be disclosed": but for the release of the aircraft, withheld because of the bombing of the Iraqi reactor and the events on the northern border, Begin was determined not to go to Washington. As he said, this was a humiliation--not a personal one, but a humiliation for Israel, which was being punished for its "iniquity" of acting in self-defense. This punishment took the form of suspension of the delivery of planes which were due to be handed over under contract. All this time Begin forbade Ambassador 'Evron to ask the administration to release the planes.

'Evron was only authorized to state again and again: "You have committed a breach of contract." Even when he was told by an authoritative source that the aircraft would soon be released, he did not leave it at that, but insisted on being informed how soon, as "soon" and precisely on what dates would the planes be handed over to Israel. "Find out exactly," Begin instructed the ambassador, "when they will be with us in Israeli skies."

The inference may be drawn that likewise the administration, and especially President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig, came to the conclusion that it would serve no purpose to overdo things and that it was right and proper once again to display overt, public good will--and not merely in secret talks--toward Israel and toward the prime minister in person. (The thing began with congratulations on Begin's reelection and on his birthday). It should be stressed that Haig's announcement of the release of the planes corresponded to the prime minister's stand in that it was plainly worded: Nowhere is it said or even hinted in the announcement that Israel is accused of having used the U.S. planes for purposes other than self-defense.

After As-Sadat's visit, Secretary of State Haig saw fit to report on the principal topics of concern to Israel discussed in the Egyptian president's talks with President Reagan: the status of the PLO and the danger of Soviet penetration and the means required to halt it. It goes without saying that such a report is furnished only to someone regarded as a major partner in strategic regional planning to be formulated after the talks with both As-Sadat and Begin.

Haig, in his note to the prime minister, spoke of the administration's impressions--positive impressions--of As-Sadat in all matters related to the subject of the Soviets in the Middle East.

Begin, in his reply note to Haig, stated that in Washington, he would discuss with the administration his own talks with As-Sadat.

The exercise of comparing notes on the "personal impressions" of each party on the Egyptian president, in light of the concrete problems confronting the region--and these include the status of the PLO and the attitude toward it--will enable Israel to test which way Washington is going: Is the Reagan administration moving in what, from Israel's point of view, is the "right direction" or has it, in the Middle East, retreated to the Carter era.

What is happening today in the region--the events in Lebanon, stoked up by the Syrians and the PLO, and now the events on the Libyan front, which could not happen without the blessing of the Soviet Union--is perhaps sufficient proof that a dialogue between Washington, Cairo and Israel is indeed a positive need. From this point of view, the visit to Alexandria is important. It is a prelude to next month's visit to Washington.

EGYPTIAN SOURCES ON REAGAN, AS-SADAT MEETING

TA240904 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] London, 23 Aug (Special to HA'ARETZ)--U.S. President Ronald Reagan is encouraging Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to form contacts with the PLO. Authoritative Egyptian sources in London said this to this HA'ARETZ correspondent.

According to sources, who asked to remain anonymous, President Reagan agreed with President as-Sadat that the peace process in the region will be promoted if the PLO sets up a government-in-exile. The sources noted that in preparation for the meeting between Begin and As-Sadat before the end of the year. The sources said that the U.S. President has not rejected the idea outright and promised to consider it immediately after his vacation ends.

The sources further said that in addition to As-Sadat's request that the PLO recognize Israel, he also asked the organization's consent to make Cairo the venue of contacts between Israel and the Palestinians. This may strengthen As-Sadat's status in the Arab world. The sources added that in their meeting in Washington last month As-Sadat and Reagan agreed to refrain from attacks on Prime Minister Begin so as not to weaken Begin's status within his party and in the eyes of his opponents. The two presidents want to enable him to adopt a compromising policy in the coming future.

In the talk the Egyptian sources disclosed that U.S. Secretary of State Haig asked Britain and other European countries to aid the U.S. administration in its efforts in Lebanon, especially via military and economic aid, in order to stabilize Lebanon and prevent renewed fighting. Haig promised that special U.S. envoy Philip Habib will resume his task to prepare for the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region with the aid of the European countries.

According to the sources Haig admitted that it is also necessary to coopt the Soviet Union in the process of achieving peace. Preliminary contacts on this will be conducted in the autumn between the United States, Western European countries, the Soviet Union and a representative of the Arab League upon the opening of the UN General Assembly session. It was reported that the United States reacted favorably to the proposal of Britain's Lord Carrington whereby the United States would guarantee the borders of Israel, the Palestinian state which will be set up in future, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

GAZA MAYOR GIVES DETAILS OF MEETING WITH SHARON

TA241611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa has disclosed that, in his meeting with Minister Sharon, he stressed his position that the Palestinians have an absolute, an indisputable right to establish an independent state west of the Jordan River rather than east of it. Ash-Shawwa emphasized this was not his own private opinion, but that held by all Arabs. The Gaza mayor decided to reveal details of his talk with the defense minister to our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar after the very fact of the meeting was made public in the media.

Further Details

TA241900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1820 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 24 Aug--Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa said today, following a lengthy talk he held with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in the latter's Jerusalem office, that it seemed to him that the minister was seeking to improve the atmosphere between the Arabs and Jews. However, he had not changed his mind regarding the Palestinian people's right to create its own sovereign state. Ash-Shawwa, who spoke with a reporter from Israeli television's Arabic service, added that Minister Sharon was not making efforts to enhance the government's image in the eyes of the residents of the territories. He termed his talk with the minister as "pleasant, but somewhat tough."

According to Ash-Shawwa, Minister Sharon told him that a problem exists between the Arabs and the Israelis which cannot be solved by military force or with arms. Lengthy discussions and fruitful dialogue were needed in order to solve it. The minister said that Israel intends to fulfill all its commitments under the Camp David accords, and is ready to grant the residents of the territories self-government under the terms of these agreements. Minister Sharon asked the Gaza mayor: "Why do you refuse to accept the responsibility to deal with problems by yourselves? Let us deal with the security issue during the transitional period as stipulated in the Camp David accords, and you will run the cultural, educational, commerce and other departments."

Minister Sharon went on to say, according to Ash-Shawwa: "I am aware of your viewpoint, as you have more than once stated sincerely that you insist on the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan. I am telling you that we do not agree to this, and if the Palestinians want a state, they can establish it east of the Jordan."

Ash-Shawwa replied that the gap between the Palestinians and Sharon's ideas was a large one. He said he explained to the minister that there is no point in discussing the autonomy issue, "since we insist on our right to our own independent state."

Ash-Shawwa added that in the meantime the tension between the population and the military government could be lowered if the Israeli Government were to accede to several demands of the residents of the territories--and Israel would do well to agree to these. Ash-Shawwa asked the minister to set up a university in the Gaza Strip, to agree to build a plant to manufacture citrus juice, to intervene personally in order to open the engineering college in Hebron, and to persuade the prime minister to allow the Mount Hebron deportees to return.

The mayor of Gaza and the defense minister parted on good terms, stressing that the dialogue between the sides should continue.

FURTHER DETAILS ON GOVERNOR, ASH-SHAK'AH MEETING

TA242000 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1930 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Nabulus, 24 Aug--Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Skah'ah asked the town's military governor for financial assistance to cover the large deficit that has accumulated in the municipality's budget due to the decision banning Arab support funds in the area. Ash-Shak'ah, who met with the governor for the first time after a long break, put forward several requests relating to municipal matters. He protested the decision banning the import of funds from Arab countries and complained about Arab villages in the area being hooked up to the national electricity grid.

The government promised the mayor that the Military Government would examine his requests to solve municipal problems, but rejected the protest on the bringing in funds from abroad and hooking-up villages to the Israeli electricity grid.

GUNFIRE DIRECTED AT ISRAELI VEHICLE IN SAMARIA

TA250804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Aug 81

[Text] Yesterday evening automatic weapons were fired at an Israeli vehicle near Elon More in Samaria. Nobody was hurt. The security forces are investigating.

TWO BOMBS DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM, RA'ANANA

TA240552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] A sabotage charge exploded at 0615 this morning inside a sand barrel near the Ra'anana crossroads. One man was injured. Our correspondent Shalom Oren adds that another sabotage charge was discovered and safely dismantled at the French Hill crossroads in Jerusalem this morning. There were no casualties and no damage.

E. JERUSALEM FATAH MEMBERS ARRESTED, TO BE TRIED

TA241212 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Aug 81 p 3

[Report by Yitzhaq Danon]

[Text] The security forces recently arrested five male and female youths, aged 19 to 23 and inhabitants of east Jerusalem, who enlisted in Fatah in May 1980 and for 1 and 1/2 years were involved in nationalist and political activities and participated in demonstrations against the Israeli authorities.

Charges against the five youths were filed at the secretariat of the military court in Lod at the end of last week. The charges state that since 1980 the group was involved in nationalistic activities and members of the group used to meet and discuss nationalist and political matters. Among other things, they participated in several demonstrations against the Israeli authorities. Members of the group had planned to murder a girl named (Sana Natsha) whom they suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

All members of the group received underground nicknames from Fatah functionaries in Jordan. Two members of the group even succeeded in luring three girls from east Jerusalem to their group.

The trial of the five youths will open at the beginning of September in the military court in Lod.

ISRAELI FIRMS RESUME EXPORTS TO IRAN VIA EUROPE

TA231010 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 81

[Report by economic correspondent Arye Lavi]

[Text] Numerous Israeli firms have recently resumed their exports to Iran. These exports are, as a rule, made via a number of countries in Europe. A reliable source estimated the scope of non-military Israeli exports to Iran to amount, at the present rate, to about $40 million per annum, which is approximately one-third of Israel's exports to that country before the political upheaval.

It has been learned that Iranian authorities are mostly aware of the resumed exports by Israeli firms, but they pose no difficulties as long as the exports are made via European countries. The goods in question are usually products in which Israeli firms have a lead over their competitors in other countries and which are impossible to identify as being from Israeli sources.

To realize the deals a number of Israeli firms established sister companies in Europe, which are marketing the goods to Iran officially. The better part of Israel's exports to Iran go through Rotterdam or Italian ports. Israeli exporters claim that those deals could be expanded, but the chief difficulty in developing the exports stems from the depreciation of the European currencies which are used to pay for most of Israel's exports.

NEW WEST BANK TRADE UNION BEING ORGANIZED

TA212021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria trade union activists, who support the rejectionist front, are now organizing to establish a union that would rival the one under the communists' control. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reported that the split among the National Guidance Committee circles has also reached the trade unions, with the activists of the rejectionist front organizations refusing to participate in the election held by the communists for the executive group, which is based in Nabulus. After the communists insisted on having their way and since all their candidates won, the rivals apparently decided to organize separately.

LIBYA HANDS MEMORANDUM TO OAU ON U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

LD222349 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 22 Aug (JANA)—The foreign liaison secretary yesterday handed over a memorandum to the Organisation of African Unity secretary general in Addis Ababa on the U.S. aggression.

The memorandum reviewed the campaign of terror and provocations launched by the U.S. against the Jamahiriyah's people and leadership. It pointed to the manoeuvres being carried out by the U.S. Sixth Fleet units in Libyan territorial waters and airspace, and the attack carried out against the two Libyan planes.

The memorandum drew the OAU's attention to the deteriorating and dangerous situation caused by U.S. policies and actions in the region that are tantamount to international terrorist action.

The memorandum called on the OAU to carry out its role in accordance with the goals of its charter that call for the protection of the sovereignty, security, unity and independence of all member countries.

The foreign liaison secretary asked the OAU secretary general to adopt the memorandum as an official document and to circulate it to other member countries in the organisation.

KENYAN PRESIDENT OPENS OAU COMMITTEE MEETING

EA241934 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] The chairman of the OAU, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, has called on the Implementation Committee on the Western Sahara to scrupulously adhere to the principles and objectives of the OAU Charter. President Moi made the call today when opening the session of the OAU Implementation Committee on the Western Sahara at the Kenyatta International Conference Center.

He said that they had assembled as directed by their own resolution adopted during the 18th assembly of the OAU heads of state and governments last June. The resolution directed that the OAU Implementation Committee on the Western Sahara be convened before the end of this month.

President Moi said that they have a mandate to work out the modalities relating to a cease-fire and the conduct and administration of a referendum on the Western Sahara. President Moi pointed out the task before them is by no means a simple one. He said that the eyes of Africa and the whole world are hopefully focused on the outcome of the meeting.

President Moi said that this session had two choices: either to fail or succeed. He, however, said that they must succeed, as the other alternative would spell disaster to the unity and solidarity. He further said that the charter of the OAU is their guide on the issue before them. He asked the session to pray to God for inspiration and guidance and expressed the hope that the spirit which guided the founding fathers of the OAU would inspire them to find an acceptable solution to the Western Sahara issue.

Earlier, President Moi welcomed the delegates to Nairobi on behalf of the ruling party KANU [Kenya African National Union] the government, the people of Kenya and on his own behalf. He extended to them a brotherly, cordial and a warm welcome to Kenya.

LIBYA

SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS, MEETS OFFICIALS

Jallud, Jabir Meetings

JN231714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli--Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud today received Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces in the Syrian Arab Republic. Last night, a meeting was held between General ash-Shihabi and Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by members of the Syrian and Libyan delegations.

During the meeting Ash-Shihabi stressed the importance of the fraternal relations and ties between the two countries and said: We have come here at the proper time in order to affirm our profound relations of struggle and joint pan-Arab commitment. Ash-Shihabi added: Your steadfastness and ours will be bolstered through the establishment of the unity of struggle so that all plots and conspiracies will be foiled, whether within the framework of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front or through close cooperation between us.

General ash-Shihabi praised the steadfastness of the Libyan people in the face of the aggressors and said: Our presence among our brothers in these circumstances bears great significance. We look upon the Jamahiriyah as a revolutionary pioneer in the Arab homeland. He pointed out that the imperialist offensive launched against the Libyan people by the leader of terrorism, the United States, is also launched against Syria by agents both from within and without.

24 Aug Departure

LD241322 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Chief of the Syrian General Staff Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi and the accompanying delegation left Libya this morning at the end of a visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was seen off by Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces' officers.

PFLO MESSAGE TO AL-QADHDHAFI ON SIDRA INCIDENT

LD241946 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Message from the PFLO Central Executive Committee to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution: In the name of the central leadership of the PFLO and in the name of the front's fighters and the masses of our militant people, we condemn the American aggression against the Jamahiriyah and its heroic people. American maneuvers and provocations near your borders which recently culminated in attacks against your aircraft in Libyan territory and over Libyan territorial waters have been the object of denunciation by the militant peoples of the world. What happened was a flagrant aggression against the UN principles and charter and a provocation against the Arab nation as a whole.

Dear militant brother, as we condemn this aggression we appeal to all the sons of our Arab nation to stand in one rank against the United States and its reactionary supporters in the Arab region and to teach it lessons by striking at its interests and boycott it economically and politically until it (?realizes) that this nation cannot be downtrodden and that it has creative capabilities and resources for struggle to defend national sovereignty, however mighty the imperialist onslaught.

In order to defeat the onslaught and its formations, the masses of our struggling nation must be mobilized and thrown into an intensive battle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

We hail your steadfastness and your heroic stands. We are with you in the same trench, assuring you that we shall not hesitate for a moment to contribute to the persevering struggle to defeat arrogant America and its supporters.

Dear militant brother, we declare our full solidarity with you and place all our potentials at your disposal for the protection of revolutionary and steadfast Libya.

From your brothers, the PFLO Central Executive Committee

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN 20 AUG SPEECH ON SAHARA, RELIGION

LD221505 Rabat MAP in English 1207 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] Rabat, 21 Aug (MAP)--On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the revolution of the king and the people (20 August), King Hassan II of Morocco addressed the Moroccan people Thursday evening in a speech broadcast by radio and television. Following is the translation of the text of the royal speech:

"Praise be to God and God's prayer and peace be upon His prophet.

"Dear people,

"It has been our habit on such a day of every year to meet all to celebrate the anniversary of revolution of the king and the people. And I do not need to recall the meaning of the revolution of the king and the people. What is important, thank God, is to know that the almighty had bestowed upon our history landmarks on the path, in order to be proud of our past and so as not to go astray in the future.

"August 20 was truly the revolution of the king and the people, when Morocco gave once again, individually and collectively, the example of how should be a people who wanted to live and go on living.

"The peculiar coincidence is that 20 August 1953 was a Thursday and it was then the day of standing on ''Arafat', on the eve of ''Id al-Adha.' We find it a happy occasion while speaking of ''Arafat' and 'Id al-Adha to address you, dear people, on a question that personally interests you and me as well.

"But before tackling it, I would like first of all dear people to remind you that the victories we have reaped in the Sahara and in the battlefield, and that what we had achieved with God's help in the last African summit, that all these victories are not an end in themselves but, I personally believe, that when our adversaries not to say our enemies, seeing that Morocco was victorious on the legal, political and international levels, would try both during the coming Nairobi conference and at the UN to place in front of us all the obstacles of empty and sterile talk they could muster, hoping either to mislead some people or drag some others along their path.

"And here we are about to leave, with God's will and protection, for Nairobi. Our trip to Nairobi is in itself and by its nature, different from the summit meeting that was held there, because during the first Nairobi meeting Morocco limited itself to two important things: First, it irrevocably affirmed the Moroccanity of the Sahara; second, it affirmed that the referendum that Morocco had decided to organize in the Saharan provinces was but a gesture answering the request of many Arab, African and European friends, all having their weight, and affirming their desire to see Morocco getting, once and for all, out of this artificially created dead end.

"Morocco's answer was indulging. Yes, we shall accept a referendum but this referendum would confirm only one thing, the Moroccanity of the Sahara.

"Had we needed a proof that the Sahara is Moroccan--its sands, its land, its sky, its waters, its sea and its people--we would have resorted to some other means. But our Saharan provinces and our Saharan sons directly confirmed to us on many occasions their loyalty and their allegience and confirmed their Moroccanity through their participation in local and nationwide elections. And even if they had not participated, their settling in the Sahara, in Laayoune, in Smara, in Boujdour and in Dakhla, and the fact that they continue to settle there would have been a sufficient and convincing proof that our sons in the Sahara are Moroccans and want nothing but to remain Moroccan.

"But in order that our sons in the Sahara enjoy what comes along with being part of us and our sons, we have to very closely know their problems, and be perfectly informed on what they are thinking of and what they are seeking.

"For example, how could we apply the system of land tenure in the Sahara when our Saharan citizens were nomads.

It is known that our citizens in the Sahara have their social and economic customs and habits, as well as in their manner of dealing, these customs and manners that they have acquired from the nature of the land they live on. Would it then be logical that Rabat pass laws without seeing to it that these laws or reforms are in conformity with the true nature of the Sahara inhabitants.

"One could wonder if my words now go against the unification orientation, at least on the legislative level. I say no. And the best example is that of two important French departments, the Alsace and the Lorraine, that still live under laws inherited from Germany after the 1870 war. And up till now neither the laws on personal statute and land tenure systems are applied to them, nor other laws in force in other departments or French territories overseas.

"In clearer terms, I want to be very flexible and that Rabat be very flexible in matters concerning the education of the Moroccan Saharan citizen who reintegrated his country only 5 years ago, and whom we want to preserve his nature and the good manner, straightforwardness and Saharan pride God had bestowed upon him. This Saharan pride requires that we respect the Saharan personality. And I personally to believe that our decision to create a council (Consultative Council in Charge of Saharan Affairs) by our side, aims at this and at attaining the best of Goals.

"As you know, dear people, we entrusted our prime minister to address you on our behalf, to tell you that we had decided to have at our side a council composed of the tribes, zawiyas and great families in the Sahara, whose members would not be proportional to the number of tribes nor that of members of these tribes because this council will not function by vote but by sound opinion, and a sound opinion is a sound opinion whether backed by one hundred votes or by one single vote.

"Secondly, we wanted that this council function by our side so as to grant the Saharan provinces the decentralization we have been seeking for a long time and give it its true meaning. That is because we would be perfectly informed on the problems in the Sahara and on the intentions and desires of the populations of the Saharan provinces.

"We have decided that the council be composed of six people from every tribe. We have insisted that the Saharan woman be represented in each tribe, in each great family and in each zawiya, knowing the attachment of the Saharan woman to public affairs, her enthusiasm and vitality, and her role as mother and educator.

We also placed as condition that some of the Saharan tribes' representatives are under forty years of age, because we have noticed that there is a wave of vital, future-bent, mature and enthusiastic youth in the Sahara, who want to participate in the edification of their provinces. It was our duty to answer the appeal of this youth, knowing that responsibility is not bound to age, but is above all bound to strong national conscience.

"We thus believe that the Saharan provinces, with their representatives within the parliament and within municipality and rural councils, and with the other Saharan forces they will place at our disposal, would prove once again that they are Moroccan and want to remain so, and that their Moroccanity was not nor would it be an "accident of history" but a meeting point of wills, wills that met around one thing, Moroccan citizenship from the strait to the Sahara. And the hope I place in those elects [as received] is that they be, by my side, the creative tool that Morocco needs, its parliament, its government and its king.

"So we shall go to Nairobi, reinforced with a new 'baiaa' (oath of allegiance) renewed in a different manner, and joining means with other forces represented either in the parliament or in municipal, rural and professional councils.

"We shall thus go to Nairobi armed first of all with our faith in God Almighty, for the Almighty wanted to make of Morocco an indivisible whole. And if they did not want that the Saharans be Moroccans, then I propose that the populations of the north be Saharans, because since the time of the Mourabitine and Youssef Ben Tachfine blood had mixed with blood and kinship related to kinship, history, interests and problems were and will always be shared.

"So we shall, above all, armed with our faith in God, armed with our legal and historical argument which has a special magnitude and nature that we shall expose there, and finally, armed with our good intentions. Because when we claimed the Sahara and recovered it, we had not claimed anybody's land and had not sought to take away anything from anybody, but had above all wanted that things return to normal, the dear ones to their relatives and the lands to their owners.

"Once again, it is we the Saharans because we in the north, have decided our destiny and wanted to be Saharans. And who could prevent us from being Saharans. If we did not want the referendum to be in the Saharan provinces, we could organize it here and ask the Moroccans: Do you want to be Saharans within the frontiers that some people claim is a Sahara. And if 20 million Moroccans said we are Saharans, we are ready to undertake another march, this time with the participation of 20 million and not just 350,000, to go there to obtain our card, the card of Saharan citizenship with me at their head.

"The important thing is that we shall go to Nairobi to make right triumph and affirm what is to affirmed, [as received] and let those who want a scandal refrain from misleading themselves and others.

"This, dear people, is the first point I wanted to address you about, because I had heard, and felt that certain ideas and certain people, particularly our Saharan sons, are wondering what is going on. Has our sovereign foresaken us and begun to wonder whether we were Moroccans. All this is empty talk seeking to confuse issues and should be erased from our minds once and for all.

"We have told you that we went to Nairobi the first time to give our interlocutors in other confirmation, in addition to the first and second oaths of allegiance, in addition to settling and keeping on settling, and in addition to participation in daily and local and national parliamentary life.

"Given that a number of great European countries, of Arab and African countries of great prestige, had asked us to satisfy their wish and get our country out of this dead end created artificially yet existing all the same, we said fine, we shall organize a referendum, but in our mind, it was question of a confirmative referendum. And if we wanted, we could change the referendum and go to Nairobi and say that we no more agree on this formula, and that the Moroccans of the north ask if you accept that they vote for self-determination in the Saharan provinces.

"So, dear people, I consider that we have explained this problem, that doubt is over and that we have clarified things once and for all.

"As to the second point, dear people, I had said earlier in my speech that our late father, God bless his soul, was exiled from his country on the eve of 'Id al-Adha'. The result was that all Moroccans did not sacrifice (slaughter sheep). And you know, dear people, that that year was one of drought and many agricultural sectors suffered, especially cattle, and cattle breeders had to sell their lambs so as not to lose everything.

"And here we are about to celebrate ''Id al-Adha'. And as you know dear people, the sacrifice is above all a 'sunna' (prophet's way of life and conduct) and that the prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, did not sacrifice in certain years.

"But you know on the other hand that the prophet's 'sunna' requires the slaughtering of a ram, not an ewe. Had it been up to us to slaughter one or the other, the problem would not have raised, but the 'sunna' precises that the prophet had sacrificed two rams of special description that he immolated with his hands. So rams are a must, and if we were all to sacrifice this year, we will cause great harm to our cattle because we will deplete our breeding stock. On the other hand, we will be obliged to import meat before the end of the year.

"You know, dear people, that every year we sacrifice over three million sheep worth some one billion dirhams or some two hundred million dollars. We have been capable, in normal years, to cope with this, but this year I shall ask my people, if it is possible, for some families to refrain from sacrificing and, by doing so, they would have followed the trut spirit of the 'sunna.'

"And you know dear people, that I am very attached to these customs and 'sunnas', and that the 'sunna' of sacrifice is not just mental or a matter of returning to the past, to the essence of Islam or to our grand-father Abraham, God's peace be upon him, but is at the same time, an occasion for the family to meet. And you know that I am the keenest on family reunions and that I do my very best so that the family be united by all means even in matters of architecture. And you have listened to my speeches on this issue, for I am against apartments in buildings which compromise the reserve that should mark relations between the father and his married sons and among married brothers. The family suffers from such promiscuity. Personally, we believe that our housing facilities should conserve the architectural particularity ensuring family unions in a manner that is by no means a source of disrespect, and which does not shadow the serenity that has always characterized the authentic Moroccan family. Such an atmosphere cannot prevail in apartments and in buildings.

"The sacrifice is thus an occasion for the family to meet in joy. We immolate the sheep not in order to eat the meat but for it to be an occasion to teach our daughters how to cook, who otherwise do not often have the time to learn it, and an occasion for the mothers to organize dividing up the sheep's part until Ashoura.

"Let it be clear: We do not order out people to abstain from sacrificing this year. Indeed, it is a very recommended 'sunna' but we believe that renouncing it does not make us deviate from Islam at all.

What we ask is only to limit, for this year, the sheep to be sacrificed. Let the Moroccans demonstrate that they know how to renounce not only material comfort, but, when necessary, rites that they are sentimentally attached to as well.

"As children we used to like watching the arrival of the 'Id' sheep and it has become one of our most joyous customs. If, for once, we sacrificed a traditional joy, we would not have lost a great deal.

"Personally, as commander of the believers, we should sacrifice the two traditional sheep. We shall also order all qadis in provincial capitals to sacrifice, because it is their duty to do so in order to validate the sacrifices of the believers who should immolate after the imam has done so.

"We do not forbid he who wants to sacrifice but we believe that he who abstains gives proof of good citizenship.

"We have said to you, dear people, that we tell you this while feeling that we are going against our most intimate feelings. But we are very worried at the idea of having to import meat before the end of the year at a moment when our hard currency reserves are in the state you know them to be...one billion spent away in seven days..we believe that Morocco needs this billion, and should save it.

"He who would have abstained from sacrificing would have sacrificed a great sentimental feeling of joy for his family, but he would be doubly rewarded, once for having used his good judgement to discern, and Islam is the faith of discerning and not of tagging along, this is why it has stayed alive both at the level of rites and conduct.

"The second reward would be for having contributed to alleviating the treasury's burden for this year. In all truth, we cannot afford to be obliged to import meat before the end of the year. So once again, dear people, the matter is up to everyone's conscience.

"We, ourselves, shall sacrifice the two sheep in conformity with the prophet's 'sunna.' However, no butcher would enter my home. Obviously we shall not deprive them of the customary retribution, but they will tell you that neither the sovereign nor the royal family have sacrificed this year.

"Those who want to voluntarily abstain do well, and those who want to follow the 'sunna' cannot be reproached. But I hope to hear the good news that the advice was followed, and that maturity and awareness overcome emotional prejudices of families.

"Some could wonder what all this has to do with August 20 and the revolution of the king and the people. To this we answer that had it not been for August 20, we would not have been able to talk about the Sahara. All the good come from this memorable day, and all victories stemmed from August 20, 1953. If poets could exaggeratedly say that the soil is bathed in pure blood, we could say that the soil was bathed in Moroccan pure blood, not just Moroccan soil, but that of all of Africa, for August 20, 1953, was the starting point for Africa's liberation.

"Great is our faith in the Almighty, that Morocco, its king and people, would always be ready to face other August 20's. Not in the sense that colonialism would return, the king exiled and the Moroccans persecuted by the colonialist, but in the sense that other tests are awaiting us and will always befall Morocco, because Morocco is envied for a good many reasons.

"My hope is that when danger arises and the bell of mobilization tolls for combat, the king and the people of this great country be ready to make their stand at the risk of their liberties and their lives.

"The day our illustrious father was put aboard an indescribable plane and in unimaginable conditions, both himself and us were wondering whether it was truely a journey towards exile or rather a mounted assasination scenario.

"As long as our late father, God bless his soul, was, from August 1953 to November 1955, between the colonialist's hands, his life was at all moments in danger.

"When he took the risk of going to exile, we knew, and so did he, that he was at the same time risking his life, knowing that every thing was to be expected from the colonialist. It was the courage of this man that spurred every member of the national community to sacrifice his quietude, his family and his life, each Moroccan saw himself in all, and all were incarnated in each.

"This symbiosis resulted, on November 16 1955, the day he returned and the day brothers met, in the proclamation of independence, the starting point for the edification of the new Morocco.

"This, dear people, is what I wanted to tell you on this occasion treasured by all of us and which, we hope, will continue to be treasured all through the centuries. Fathers and mothers would tell their children about its sublime significance, who in their turn will pass down the message. This is how the landmarks on the path we have so far covered will serve as reference for the path we are taking, so as to keep on following a straight line, a divine path that the coming generation could be proud of, and that, with God's will and with our determination, is not difficult to attain. That God's peace and blessing be upon you."

SUDAN

'SOURCE' VIEWS LIBYAN REACTION TO SIDRA INCIDENT

JN241846 Khartoum SUNA in English 1820 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Aug (SUNA)--An authoritative senior source expressed to SUNA his surprise about the fabricated clamour raised by Al-Qadhdhafi on the last incident of shooting down two Libyan fighters by U.S. warplanes.

The source said that Al-Qadhdhafi, who is accustomed to violate all laws concerning air aviation by sending his planes to violate air spaces of other countries, is trying to appear in the feature of a person who respects international laws at the time his planes conveying weapons and ammunitions to conduct sabotage in the neighbouring countries. The authoritive source recalled to mind the violation of the Libyan planes to the Sudanese air space during last March. The authoritative sources said that Al-Qadhdhafi does not respect the international laws and trying always to extend his domination over the land of others.

The source said that these problems created by Al-Qadhdhafi are similar to his problems with neighbouring Tunis and Malta on the borders and national waters.

The source told SUNA that it's not excluded that Al-Qadhdhafi reclaim the possession of Italian and Spanish territories, waters and air spaces, as he did with Western Sahara and Chad. The source added that despite all these problems increase the isolation of the Libyan regime because all the African and Arab nations are certain that Al-Qadhdhafi is their enemy who dreams of creating an empire on their territories.

BENIN

KEREKOU CONDEMNS 'ATTACK ON LIBYAN PLANES'

AB212117 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] President Kerekou dispatched two telegrams today; the first was addressed to President al-Qadhdhafi. The message says: To His Excellency Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution and the secretary general of the Front of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah:

Excellency and dear brother, we have learned with bitterness about the attack on the Libyan planes by U.S. Navy jet fighters within your country's airspace on 19 August 1981. On behalf of the entire Beninese people, the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party and the National Executive Council, we severely condemn this deliberate provocative action against the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In the face of this intervention, which constitutes a threat to the security and peace of your people, we reaffirm that the Mediterranean and the Pacific Ocean should be decleared a zone of peace and that the United Nations must take all necessary steps to stop such acts of aggression as your country has just suffered. [passage indistinct]

GAMBIA

JAWARA TO EXPLAIN CONFEDERATION PLAN TO PEOPLE

AB221404 Paris AFP in French 1250 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Banjul, 22 Aug (AFP)--Sir Dawda Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, will begin on Saturday a 4-day tour of the interior to explain the significance of the proposed Senegal-Gambia confederation, the creation of which he suggested during a visit to Dakar.

The Gambian head of state, who will visit about 20 villages, will investigate the situation in the rural areas since the 30 July abortive coup and the consequent results.

The head of state recently stated that the troubles affected only Banjul and its surroundings and that people in the interior remain faithful to his regime. Observers note that the Gambian leader's tour is taking place 7 months before the Gambian general elections.

SENEGAL LENDS JAWARA GUARDS, SECURITY AGENTS

AB221350 Paris AFP in French 1235 GMT 22 Aug 81

[Text] Banjul, 22 Aug (AFP)--About 50 presidential guards, motorcycle policemen and security agents have been put at the disposal of Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara by Senegal, following the 30 July abortive coup.

This assistance foreshadows the integration of Gambian and Senegalese security services and armed forces announced by the Gambian head of state, who has also announced the formation of a Senegal-Gambia confederation.

The Senegalese personnel of the presidential security force were presented to President Jawara on Saturday at a ceremony presided over by Col Alioune Baadara Konte, chief of staff of the Senegalese Army and representative of the chief of the General Staff of the Senegalese Armed Forces in Banjul.

It was learned in Banjul that Senegalese soldiers are now training their Gambian counterparts to control traffic, search vehicles and carry out military exercises.

GHANA

LIMANN ASKS PARLIAMENT TO FOLLOW PRESCRIBED ROLE

AB211052 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] The president, Dr Limann, has asked the legislature to guard against the tendency of admini ering the nation from parliament house. He was speaking at a reception organized for members of parliament to round off the second session of parliament at the castle last night. He reminded the legislature that its main duty is to enact laws and not to administer the nation which is the responsibility of the executive. The president therefore asked parliament to exercise caution in its activities in order not to run what he called two parallel executive arms of government and foreign policies for the nation.

Dr Limann observed that of late, there have been incidents where parliament has sought to direct the executive on administrative matters. This has included directives to ministers, heads of corporations and institutions and even the chief of defense staff. Dr Limann noted that as a result of the country's past experiences of carelessness and irresponsibility in government circles, parliament may feel the urgent need to pass every action of the government through critical examination. But he warned that premature utterances in parliament also tend to wreck delicate international negotiations and asked MP's to ponder over these vital issues. He reaffiremed his administration's commitment to the policy of open government and participatory democracy. He however urged parliament to recognize its limitations and impose on itself a measure of self-censure on sensitive national issues as the executive had tried to do.

Dr Limann said the willful abuse of confidentiality tends to harm the national interest. President Limann said one of the fundamental bedrocks of democracy is opposing views on which people may often agree to disagree. He added that out of healthy rivalry and disagreements between political opponents emerge the truth and wise policy decisions. The very foundations of democracy can, however, be threatened when political rivalry degenerates into conflict and [word indistinct]. Dr Limann expressed confidence in the ability of the nation to achieve its major objectives of economic recovery, progress and prosperity if all the three arms of state cooperate and respect each other's role. He appealed to the MP's to visit their constituencies and exchange the impulse of [words indistinct].

IVORY COAST

SENEGAMBIA CONFEDERATION 'THE PATH TO FOLLOW'

AB211605 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 21 Aug 81 p 28

[S. Bassole commentary "The Path To Follow"]

[Text] The map of Africa will be rewritten. Moreover, it is from this point of view that we must understand the move which will lead Senegal and Gambia to a "Senegambia" confederation soon.

The move, as we know, is the direct consequence of the 30 July abortive coup in which Sir Dawda Jawara, the Gambian president, nearly lost his position. Without going into the arcana of the past, it seems that the idea of this merger between the two countries is not really new. Several African observers thought of it shortly after Gambia gained independence. On the Senegalese side, while public opinion was not indifferent to this idea, the political leaders were rather careful.

This is because they remembered bad experiences on a similar subject. So, they did not want to hasten the procedure.

Today, given the present circumstances, the facts have changed. Also, there is nothing standing in the way of the project.

Gambia was established out of the aberrations of a continent divided according to the colonial master's will without taking into account the ethnic groupings. Gambia in its present form is definitely part of the Senegalese entity. In a nutshell, the geographical, historical and cultural ties binding the two countries are so strong that the proposed confederation can only be seen as salutary for their security. Knowing that large groupings have a better future, we can already predict that Senegambia will have an impact on the geopolitical equilibrium in the West African subregion. As can be seen, such capital assets can only favor and strengthen the Senegambian confederation. Moreover, it will influence and inspire all small African countries situated within, if not near, the "motherland."

Hard-hit by natural disasters, coupled with the international economic situation, neither country, as we know, has any significant resources, but the simple fact that there is a willingness on both sides to overcome a certain nationalism is worth all the riches.

To sum up, Presidents Abdou Diouf and Dawda Jawara have just shown the path to follow.

NIGERIA

OFFICIALS DISCUSS NAMIBIA WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN

Ekwueme on U.S. Misconception

AB212203 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, called on the five-nation contact group to identify themselves with the realities of the Namibian question. He made the call while receiving a three-man United States congressional delegation which paid him a courtesy call at State House today. The vice president told the contact group, which includes the United States, Britain, France, Canada and West Germany, that there was no justification for the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist South Africa. He noted that American policy on the problem of racist South Africa and Namibia was based on misconception of Africa's views.

Dr Ekwueme said that it was wrong to assume that the Cuban presence in Angola constituted total adherence to communism and urged the United States and other members of the contact group to do all they could to bring freedom and human dignity to the people of Namibia. He reminded the United States that it stands to gain far more from Africa by identifying with African views than aiding the South African regime in its atrocities against the freedom fighters.

Replying on behalf of his colleagues, Mr Howard Wolpe stated that the delegation was on an eight-nation tour of Africa to assess ways in which the American Congress could influence the Reagan administration's policy on Africa as it affects South Africa and Namibia.

Alhaji Idris Urges Sanctions

AB211625 Lagos NAN in English 1610 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Text] Lagos, 21 Aug (NAN)--The deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim, said today in Lagos that only economic sanctions against South Africa could make it give up her apartheid policy.

He told a nine-man United States congressional sub-committee on foreign relations that Nigeria and other African countries strongly believed that if the United States of America sincerely applied economic sanctions against the racists in South Africa, there would be a change of heart.

Alhaji Idris recalled that if Nigeria had not used an economic weapon against Britain by nationalising the British Petroleum in Nigeria, Zimbabwe would not have had her independence.

According to him, the world powers appeared more concerned with their economic interests in South Africa at the expense of human lives.

He told the delegation that the world powers found it impossible to give up their economic investments in South Africa in order to bring about democracy in Namibia and inside South Africa itself.

It is hard to imagine that some world powers, which use all the resources at their disposal to ensure the existence of Israel and prevent Palestinians from having a homeland, now find it difficult to prevail on the racist regime in South Africa to change its apartheid policy, he said.

He said that if the United States co-operated with other countries in stopping South Africa from getting oil from any source, it would have not survived with its apartheid policy, he said.

Alhaji Idris noted that the delegation had visited South Africa to see things for itself and hoped that such a visit would help to re-shape the views the members might have had before they left their country.

He stated that there was no area of disagreement between Nigeria and the United States except on the issue of South Africa, adding we think the United States can bring about the desired change in South Africa.

The deputy speaker also spoke on the current oil glut which he said was being forced on OPEC countries by the world powers. He said that it was a known fact that the world powers had been using Saudi Arabia to strangulate other OPEC countries, because they felt that Saudi Arabia could meet their oil needs.

Replying, the chairman of the delegation, Mr Howard Wolpe, said that for years, we have been studying South Africa from a distance. He said that his delegation now saw the reality of the situation at first hand and added: We have now come away with a much clearer sense of what is at stake in the southern African issue.

Mr Wolpe had briefed the deputy speaker on why his delegation undertook the tour which took them to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Somalia, Angola and Kenya. He said that the visit was to enable the committee to monitor African perspective of the United States foreign relations policy as it affected American-Afri

REVISION OF UN NAMIBIA RESOLUTION OPPOSED

AB241752 Lagos International Service in English

[Press Review]

[Text] A front page [word indistinct] of the NEW NIGERIAN says Nigeria is totally opposed to any attempt to revise the United Nations resolution on the Namibian independence. Rather it prefers the full implementation of the resolution. The Nigerian leader declared in Nairobi, the paper says, that there is no need for any revision either in terms of [words indistinct] in the resolution which has been universally accepted all over the world.

MOROCCO URGED TO COOPERATE ON W. SAHARA SETTLEMENT

AB241157 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Station commentary: "The OAU and the Western Sahara"]

[Text] A representative of the Algerian Government was in Lagos last week to present a special note to President Shehu Shagari explaining the Algerian position. It was said that his mission to Lagos was considered necessary because of the remarkable interest Nigeria has shown in the matter and in recognition of the role the country has been playing in the search for peaceful solutions to African problems.

Three countries have been directly involved in the dispute over the Western Sahara since Spain pulled out of the phosphate-rich territory in 1975. These are Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. The Algerians have always declared support for an independent nation in the Western Sahara and have been one source of financial sustennance for the Polisario Liberation Movement in the fight to gain control of the territory. Polisario fighters are based in Algeria from where they have been conducting the on-going struggle for independence in the Western Sahara. It was, therefore, not surprising that, when the Polisario proclaimed the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, SDAR, recognition by Algeria was immediate. On the other hano, Morocco and Mauritania have claims to this territory over which the two countries committed troops and financial resources for a protracted war. However, the Mauritanians have since renounced their claims to the Western Sahara. This was one of the first actions taken after the military coup that brought down the government of former President Mocktar Ould Daddah. However, the Moroccans have continued to [word indistinct] in their claims of sovereignty over the Western Sahara. Such claims have been pressed with vigor and emotion. The 1976 march by thousands of Koran-carrying Moroccans into the Western Sahara on the orders of King Hassan of Morocco cannot be easily forgotten.

However, at the last OAU conference in Nairobi, Kenya, King Hassan pledged his country's support for a referendum to decide the independence issue. The king endorsed the resolution adopted at the summit setting up a committee of seven nations on the Western Sahara. The committee is made up of Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania, Sudan and Sierra Leone. [as heard] The leaders of these countries are expected to meet before the end of this month with the parties to the conflict to work details for a cease-fire and the proposed referendum. The OAU has also asked the United Nations to provide a peace-keeping force and to join the OAU in taking all the measures necessary with a view to guaranteeing the holding of a general and regular referendum of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

However, [illegible] noted that the Saharan Democratic Arab [illegible] of the OAU. The OAU committee will be [illegible] problems is the continued refusal of Mor[illegible] whom Rabat views as rebels. This will make the [illegible] Saharan war fairly difficult and, without a cease-fire, there can be no UN peace-keeping force and therefore no proposed referendum.

Nigeria's support for the independence struggle [illegible] Sahara is based on the country's overall support for the liberation [illegible] throughout the continent. This support is extended to any group of African people suffering under the yoke of colonial domination and imperialism. It is unfortunate that the Western Sahara independence issue has dragged on for so long because of Moroccan intransigence. The right of the Saharan people to self-determination is inalienable and that is why it is necessary for Rabat to cooperate with the OAU to make the committee's work much easier.

ANGOLA

PRESIDENT CABLES WALDHEIM ON 'IMMINENT' INVASION

LD250734 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Aug 81

["Text" of cable addressed by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim; date not given]

[Text] I have the honor to inform your excellency that once again the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) is the victim of military attacks and violations of its airspace and territory by Pretoria's racist military forces. Over 45,000 South African troops, comprising mercenaries and puppets, are concentrated on the Angolan-Namibian border. Their objective is to occupy part of the sovereign territory of Angola.

What is happening is a grave provocation, which seriously threatens regional peace and international security. The situation is becoming progressively graver and it may cause a war with unforeseeable consequences. The PRA, as a sovereign UN member-state, may find itself compelled to resort to the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter for the defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Accordingly, I would like to request your excellency to use the powers invested in you by the UN Charter to verify the constant acts of aggression against the PRA and to prevent the imminent major invasion which has been prepared against my country.

Highest considerations,

Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the PRA.

MINISTRY CLAIMS PRETORIA TROOPS INSIDE TERRITORY

EA250753 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Aug 81

["Text" of communique issued by the Angolan Ministry of Defense "during the last minutes of 24 August"]

[Text] Following the Defense Ministry communique dated 22 August, 1981 condemning the aggressive actions of the South African racists against the Peoples Republic of Angola (PRA) [illegible] wishes to inform our people and international public opinion [illegible]. Accordingly, it wishes to condemn once again the [illegible] South African racist forces against our country:

On 23 August, 1981, at about 1045, the South African racist air force made reconnaissance flights over Ongiva and Porto Alexandre. Simultaneously, 2 Mirages and 2 Buccaneer aircraft attacked and destroyed the headquarters of Cahama municipality which is over 200 km inside our territory and the Chibema commune which is over 300 km inside our national territory.

Today, 24 August, 1981, at about 1000, there were renewed penetrations of our national airspace and a South African force in two motorized columns entered our territory. One of the motorized columns comprises 2 tanks and 82 vehicles. This force is supported by aircraft of the South African Air Force and the force is heading for Changongo and Cahama villages.

The first encounter between our forces and the invaders took place in the Changongo area about 100 km inside our country. Fierce fighting is now underway. As the fighting is taking place, aircraft of the South African Air Force are keeping Changongo under intense air bombardment.

The second column, after occupying Catequero village, which is about 150 km inside our country, was countered by our troops, and fierce fighting is also underway now in that region.

In view of this situation, the Defense Ministry of the PRA once again calls on our people to remain vigilant. Every citizen should remain mobilized at his place of work and be ready to defend the achievments of the revolution by supporting our glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola. Let all our people shed their blood at battlefronts in the defense of our fatherland's territorial integrity.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Office of the minister of defense in Luanda on 24 August, 1981.

The minister: Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale.

SOUTH AFRICA

DEFENSE SPOKESMAN DENIES ANGOLAN ALLEGATIONS

LD240816 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] A South African Defense Force spokesman has described an Angolan allegation that 45 people have been killed in South African air attacks on southern Angola during the past few days as poor and unsubstantiated propaganda. He was commenting on reports by the Angolan News Agency, ANGOP, which quoted a communique by the Angolan Defense Ministry. The communique also claimed that South African forces, including mercenaries, were massing on the South-West African/Namibian border and that an attack on the provincial capital, (N'giva) was imminent. The spokesman denied that South Africa made use of mercenaries, saying the regular forces were quite capable of coping with the situation.

ANC'S TAMBO COMDEMNS PRETORIA ON DEATH SENTENCES

CA251034 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Aug 81

[Text] The president of the African National Congress, the ANC, of South Africa, Comrade Tambo, has vowed that his movement will not stand idle while the Pretoria racists go ahead with the execution of three of its members. In a reference to the death sentences passed on three ANC members by Pretoria last week, Comrade Tambo said the death sentences are dragging the white people of South Africa into a abyss from which it will be hard to retrieve them. Comrade Tambo, who made his remarks in a statement from Lusaka, said the three ANC guerrillas, Comrades Anthony Tsotsobe, David Moise and Johannes Shabangu, were tortured into signing incriminating statements. The ANC leader said in sentencing the three young men the judge relied (?solely) on these statements, which he claimed were confessions of guilt made voluntarily. On the liberation struggle in general Comrade Tambo noted that in the past 5 months alone South Africa has witnessed an intensification by black workers of industrial action which has, over the past 2 years, become a permanent feature of the general mass struggle of the oppressed. He also said that the sophisticated armed offensive by units of the Umkonto We Sizwe, the spear of the nation, had introduced a new element in the armed struggle.